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Nicholas Cage and John
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The reclusive Irish
singer breaks her
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BEST FOR JOBS
WANTED

Secretary	20K
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Analyst	35K
Director	100K

32 PAGES IN TWO SECTIONS

U-turn on Grand Prix sponsorship

Blair accused of wrecking tobacco ban

By CHARLES BREMNER, JILL SHERMAN AND IAN MURRAY

TONY BLAIR was accused yesterday of destroying an eight-year effort to end cigarette advertising across Europe after he decided to exempt Formula One motor racing from a tobacco sponsorship ban.

The Prime Minister's U-turn has probably scuppered any chance of a Europe-wide advertising ban this century — the EU had expected to approve one next month. It has also infuriated the health lobby, which said the Government had been blackmailed, and other sports, which also demanded exemptions.

The Prime Minister was personally persuaded to exempt Formula One by leaders of the sport two weeks ago. They told him that if tobacco sponsorship were banned, grand prix races would move away from the EC to eastern Europe or the Far East. They would be still shown on British television, however, complete with the prominent tobacco advertisements. It would be better, they argued, to exempt Formula One from the ban and leave the sport's governing body to impose a voluntary code reducing tobacco promotion at tracks.

Yesterday Downing Street defended the decision, saying it would safeguard 50,000 jobs in the motor industry. And Tessa Jowell, Public Health Minister who has been negotiating with the tobacco and sports industries for months, said it was an example of "practical politics". She insisted that it was not a U-turn as Labour had always promised to safeguard sport.

But the British Medical Association described the decision as a serious disappointment. Dr Sandy Macara, the chairman, said: "Clearly an unholy alliance of the tobacco manufacturers and the Formula One organisers has put the Government in an impossible position. This must not signal a retreat from effective



UK and global action to control access to tobacco and the marketing of cigarettes."

Clive Bates, director of the anti-smoking campaign group ASH, described the decision as depressing, but not surprising. "The tobacco industry and Formula One have heavily lobbied the Government."

The sports industry was also up in arms. Robert Holmes, of the British Darts Organisation, led the demands for all sports to be given the same treatment, saying: "The grands prix have got lots of clout and we are pleased there has been this U-turn in regard to them — we can only hope it will open the way for commonsense to prevail in the working class sports like darts, snooker, fishing, pool and rugby."

News of the Government's decision came as a "bombshell" to the European Commission only weeks before a council meeting where it had expected to secure agreement on a new directive on tobacco advertising.

EU members have been pressing for a deal for years but Britain, Germany, The Netherlands and Greece have been blocking agreement. With the change of Government in Britain, the Commission had been confident that it would get the proposal through at the Council of

Ministers meeting on December 4. But the Commission has now threatened to withdraw the whole directive.

A spokeswoman for Padraig Flynn, the Social Affairs Commissioner, said: "It's a disaster, a complete U-turn. This could spell the end of the directive, obliging the Commission to withdraw the proposal. This has been on the table since 1989 and we are not prepared to proceed with something that we know will not command enough support." British and Dutch approval should have guaranteed that the law would go through, even though Germany, the EU's biggest cigarette producer, and Greece, with its tobacco-growing industry, are holding out.

Mr Flynn received word of Britain's abrupt change of heart on Tuesday evening as health officials in Brussels put finishing touches to the law, which would have banned tobacco advertising anywhere except the point of sale. Miss Jowell sent Mr Flynn a copy of a letter she had written to Luxembourg — the current EU president — saying that Britain could not accept the law unless Formula One racing were exempted because it was a "global sport" with greater dependence than any other on tobacco sponsorship.

Mr Flynn "immediately hit the phone" and told Miss Jowell that the move could scupper the whole law, officials said. He also wrote to her making the same point. Miss Jowell's husband, David Mills, is a solicitor whose firm represents Benetton, whose Formula One racing team is sponsored by a Japanese tobacco company. But Mr Mills resigned as a non-executive director of Benetton Formula Ltd and stopped acting for them on tobacco sponsorship when his wife was appointed.

The deal, page 10



Camilla Parker Bowles out with the Beaufort Hunt in Gloucestershire yesterday

Blair rejects hunting Bill

By POLLY NEWTON
POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR yesterday ruled out allowing government time for anti-hunting legislation in this parliamentary session.

He told Labour MPs that he would not risk the loss of key government business through lengthy arguments about hunting. Supporters of a ban had hoped that a Private Member's Bill to end hunting with hounds, put forward by Michael Foster, Labour MP for Worcester, would receive official backing. Without government time, the Bill will not become law no matter how many MPs vote for it when it

receives its second reading on November 28.

Mr Blair's comments, in his traditional autumn address to the Parliamentary Labour Party, killed off any lingering speculation that Mr Foster's Bill could be enacted.

In response to criticism from some anti-hunting MPs, Mr Blair said they should focus their anger on the Conservatives: "It is the Tories who are to blame. Without their determination to oppose and block this Bill, it could pass through Parliament relatively easily."

He warned the parliamentary party to prepare for a rougher ride as the Government faced difficult and potentially unpopular decisions. He said that in many ways the first six months in government had gone more smoothly than MPs might have expected. But there were harder times ahead. "What is important is that we know the direction we are going in. It means that, at the end of five years, we can show that we have honoured our pledges and taken the country in the direction of modernisation and justice."

He added that five years was not enough time for Labour to achieve all its goals and he urged Labour MPs to help to secure the party another term in office, warning them not to underestimate or ignore the Conservatives.

The clash came as William Hague ordered all Conservative MPs, including Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine, to vote next week against the Government's Bill ratifying the Amsterdam treaty. He decided to face down their expected rebellion by offering

Heseltine and Clarke put Europe first, says Lamont

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

NORMAN LAMONT moved last night to undermine the Conservative pro-European fightback by accusing Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine of caring more about Europe than the pound and alleging that Mr Clarke once said that Britain should be absorbed into a federal Europe.

In an article in *The Times* today, the former Chancellor says he has always regarded Mr Clarke as a European federalist and discloses a private conversation with him in which he believes supports that contention.

He also makes plain that he blames Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine for the scale of losses suffered by Britain on Black Wednesday four years ago.

He writes that years ago when they were young front benchers under Margaret Thatcher he and Mr Clarke disagreed sharply about Europe and Mr Clarke said that "the sooner the House of Commons becomes a county council the better".

He adds: "I remember those words because they did somewhat shock me. I have often reflected on them, but never referred to them until now."

Mr Lamont's attack took the Tory battle to a new level of bitterness. Last night Mr Clarke denied his claims about the private conversation: "I have no idea what he is talking about. It has never been my view. There never was any such conversation. Norman's memory is playing terrible tricks on him."

The clash came as William Hague ordered all Conservative MPs, including Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine, to vote next week against the Government's Bill ratifying the Amsterdam treaty. He decided to face down their expected rebellion by offering

no concessions to the pro-Europeans, and imposing a three-line whip. There were immediate signs that he had snuffed out a revolt. Nineteen Tory MPs at a meeting of the Positive Europe group decided to vote in line with Mr Hague's wishes because of their opposition to the social chapter in the Amsterdam treaty.

Mr Lamont has chosen the day that the Conservative Mainstream group relaunches itself to fight against Mr Hague's decision to oppose the single currency at the next election, to deliver a savage attack on the pro-European movement's two leading players. He accuses them of learning nothing from Britain's forced exit from the ERM. And he blames them for allowing currency speculators to profit from the Black Wednesday four years ago.

He says that as he sat with them in Admiralty Arch as the momentous events unfolded he had wanted to get the pound out of the ERM, as did the Bank of England. But for Mr Heseltine and Mr Clarke "Europe came first."

He adds: "They insisted interest rates were increased to 15 per cent, when all the time currency speculators were coming to the Bank of England to dump pounds." He then goes on: "Like the Bourbons, they have learnt nothing from history."

He says that then Mr Heseltine and Mr Clarke were prepared to pay a very high price to stay within the ERM. "Today they seem equally determined that the Conservative Party should pay a very high price if it is not prepared to leave open the option of joining the single currency."

Norman Lamont, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Louise decision web site crashes

The web site for the Massachusetts lawyers' newspaper on which Judge Hiller B. Zobel is to post his decision in the Louise Woodward case crashed after thousands of Britons logged on when they woke up. Page 5

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Poland Pln 2500, Portugal P 2500,
Spain Ptas 2500, Sweden Sfr 2500,
Switzerland Sfr 2500, Taiwan T\$ 2500,
USA \$ 500, Tunisia Tn 2500, USA \$ 500.

Airbus in safe crash landing

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
AND JOANNA BAILE

THE pilot of a Virgin Atlantic Airbus A340 was told he had "done a marvellous job" last night after he made a emergency landing at Heathrow airport without causing serious injuries to passengers.

The Airbus, with 114 people on board, was down to its last 15 minutes' flying time as it landed without one set of landing gear, forcing it to skid to a halt in a blaze of sparks.

Last-ditch attempts to force the landing gear down had to be abandoned after the pilot told air traffic controllers that he had nearly run out of fuel.

The pilot, Captain Tim Barnby, had already tried to "shake" down the left wing's landing gear through abrupt

movements of the aircraft as it circled over London. Captain Barnby put out a Mayday call after making a 300-ft high flypast close to the Heathrow control tower so that technical experts could look closely at the undercarriage.

As the plane landed, it was forced to tip on to one of its four engines at about 100mph and grind to a halt as firefighters swamped the runway and the plane with foam.

Relieved air traffic controllers told Captain Barnby he had performed "a bloody marvellous job" in bringing the aircraft to a halt without veering off the runway or bursting into flames.

The captain said: "I was trying to shake the undercarriage using positive G-force to try and get it down. They told us the gear was definitely stuck. I then kept the plane upright to bring it down. I

don't think what I did was heroic — it was all in a day's work."

Captain Barnby had initially planned to attempt a "touch and go" procedure of "dunking" the aircraft on to the runway before taking off again in the hope of releasing the landing gear.

Nine passengers and crew were treated for minor injuries after the aircraft was evacuated using emergency chutes. The temporary closure of the airport caused three-hour delays to some flights and Heathrow warned that further delays would continue today.

Air accident investigators were last night examining the undercarriage to try to discover why one of four sets of landing gear had failed to come down.



The stricken aircraft on the runway last night

Quick-draw pub lottery 'faces ban'

THE Government faces a row over plans to ban rapid-draw lottery games in pubs threatening to deprive charities including ChildLine and Mencap of up to £100 million a year (Jon Ashworth writes).

The decision, expected to be announced next week, bears the mark of Camelot, the National Lottery operator, which has lobbied hard against the introduction of rival lottery games.

Lord Mancroft, the Conservative peer behind Pronto — to be launched in pubs later this month — said the legality of the game has been confirmed by the Gaming Board: "If the Government wishes to change the law, it will have to go back to Parliament."

Mystery benefactors give £15m to rescue opera

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

WEALTHY benefactors have responded to a cry for help from the beleaguered Royal Opera House, donating £15 million to keep the company afloat until the opening of a new building in two years' time.

The identity of the patrons — described only as long-standing Covent Garden fans — has not been revealed, though the ROH emphasised that they included neither of its most active benefactors — Vivien Duffield and

Lord Sainsbury, whose £2 million loan bailed out the company in July.

A series of crisis meetings began at 7am yesterday and the board put together proposals for submission to the Arts Council. The ROH chairman, Lord Chadlington, who had disclosed on Tuesday that the company could be bankrupt within a week, said: "We believe we have raised the necessary funds until the house reopens... I never believed we couldn't find a way through this."

Emergency meetings brought agreement "in principle" on funding to

underpin an expected £7 million deficit — a figure exacerbated by disappointing ticket sales during some Royal Ballet and Royal Opera performances away from Covent Garden.

The ROH added that performances will go ahead as planned. Lord Chadlington said: "It is an act of great faith in the Royal Opera House that new donors have now pledged their support." He added that it meant the ROH had a strong financial footing as it examined plans by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, to smooth English National Opera on the same

Covent Garden site as the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet.

The idea, and a suggestion that the companies should tour for two-thirds of the year, continued to cause outrage in opera circles yesterday. David Pountney, now directing *Rienzi* at the Vienna State Opera and who was English National Opera's director of productions, said: "You can't play with the identity of theatres and companies by saying it doesn't matter who owns the theatres."

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Open

View



Morse Data

ch. 11/11/97

Whatever can it be that turns Dr Jekyll into Mr Snide?

A CREEPY story is emerging between the lines of Wednesday's Commons Questions: the tale of Prime Minister Jekyll and Tony Hyde. Prime Minister Jekyll is a fair-minded fellow with a ready ear for the other chap's point of view. Generous in debate and civil in manner, his whole wish is to lift the argument to a higher plane.

Whatever your opinion, magnanimous Prime Minister Jekyll can find something with which to agree. Relaxed, high-toned and tolerant, he years for an end to the petty

point-scoring which poisons our politics. Prizing country above party, he invites all who care about Britain to join him in prayerful contemplation of the national good.

How sharp is the contrast with a very different fellow? Tony Hyde is vituperative and sly. Ever-vigilant for a means of wrong-footing opponents, his instinct is to avoid the argument and kick them in the nuts. Tony Hyde is uncompromisingly partisan, quick to sneer, to mock and — in victory — to crow.

Both these gentlemen

appear at the dispatch box on Wednesdays. Prime Minister Jekyll and the Rt Hon Tony Hyde being wont to take turns in answering backbenchers.

Thus it was that at 3pm yesterday it was Tony Hyde who took the first question, which was by chance from a Tory, Nigel Evans (Ribble Valley). Evans was worried about the EU budget. "I don't think I've ever heard such nonsense," sneered Hyde. Then (though nobody had raised this) he began to attack the "negative, foolish" atti-

tude of the previous government.

Next, a Labour backbencher, Helen Jones (Lab, Warrington N) asked about the International Development White Paper. By chance it was the Prime Minister who took this one.

Genuinely he agreed with her, and offered a thoughtful disquisition on overseas aid.

But it was Tony Hyde who took the question which followed, from Opposition Leader William Hague. Hyde simply refused to answer Hague's question about new EU proposals to regulate small businesses.

Instead he just kept shuffling his notes and attacking the last government. Pressed repeatedly by Hague, Hyde

grew angrier and more mocking. Finally, he began shouting "business prefers this side's position!" and turning round, grinning, to his friends for endorsement, like a playground bully.

It was a relief, then, to find Prime Minister Jekyll on his feet next, to answer a Labour backbencher, Peter Pike (Burnley), on the wind-chill factor. "My hon. Friend is absolutely right," he agreed.

Labour backbencher Claire Ward (Walsford) asked about threats to the Lottery. Jekyll was genial: "My hon

Friend is absolutely right." "My hon. Friend is absolutely right," he smiled to Oona King (Lab, Bethnal Green & Bow) who wanted a fitting memorial for the civilian war-dead. "My hon. Friend is absolutely right," was his answer to the Labour backbencher who wanted new powers to supervise sex-offenders.

To Charles Clarke (Lab, Norwich S): "My hon. Friend is absolutely right." And his reaction to the thoughts of Labour's Austin Mitchell (Grimsby) on international

debt relief: "My hon. Friend is absolutely right." How unlikely that this Prime Minister was never on hand when an Opposition member rose. To these Tony Hyde, instead, offered a string of gibes, taunts and sneaky references to their own problems.

We cannot guess by what rule of thumb Prime Minister Jekyll and Tony Hyde decided to divide the questions between them. We merely note that they seem to have formed a useful working arrangement. Could they by any chance be related?



POLITICAL SKETCH

Rail watchdog to be fettered by ministers

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS will today tighten control of the rail regulator amid astonishment that he has bowed to pressure from train companies and abandoned plans to name firms giving poor information to passengers.

New guidelines will be published today forcing John Swift to work more closely with ministers over his handling of the companies.

The move comes as it emerged that Mr Swift has torn up plans to publish league tables showing which of the 25 train operators give the best and worst information to passengers.

Senior railway executives threatened to take legal action if Mr Swift went ahead with plans to expose the worst-performing companies. They claimed that serious flaws in a survey he set up had produced misleading and inaccurate information. The results will not now break down figures according to individual train operator.

Ministers are said to be "baffled" that the survey was not sound enough to withstand the train companies' campaign.

Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, will today tell the Commons in a written

answer that Mr Swift will be expected to work more closely with ministers in future. Mr Swift will have to place more emphasis on the need to reflect the public subsidy paid into railways. Ministers have already made clear that greater public control of the railways will be a priority of future railway legislation.

Mr Strang will also make clear today that the franchising director, which awarded contracts of up to 15 years to run train services, should consult ministers more frequently on future franchise sales.

Mr Swift has been forced to delay since July the publication of the first "mystery shopper" survey in which nearly 5,000 requests for fares and timetable information have been analysed. Originally, he planned to publish the results as a league table of operators but the train companies have mounted a series of challenges to his findings, most of which he has accepted.

The survey, to be published this month, found that about one in ten requests for information was answered wrongly. However, train companies say that officials conducting the survey were unaware that updated fares information

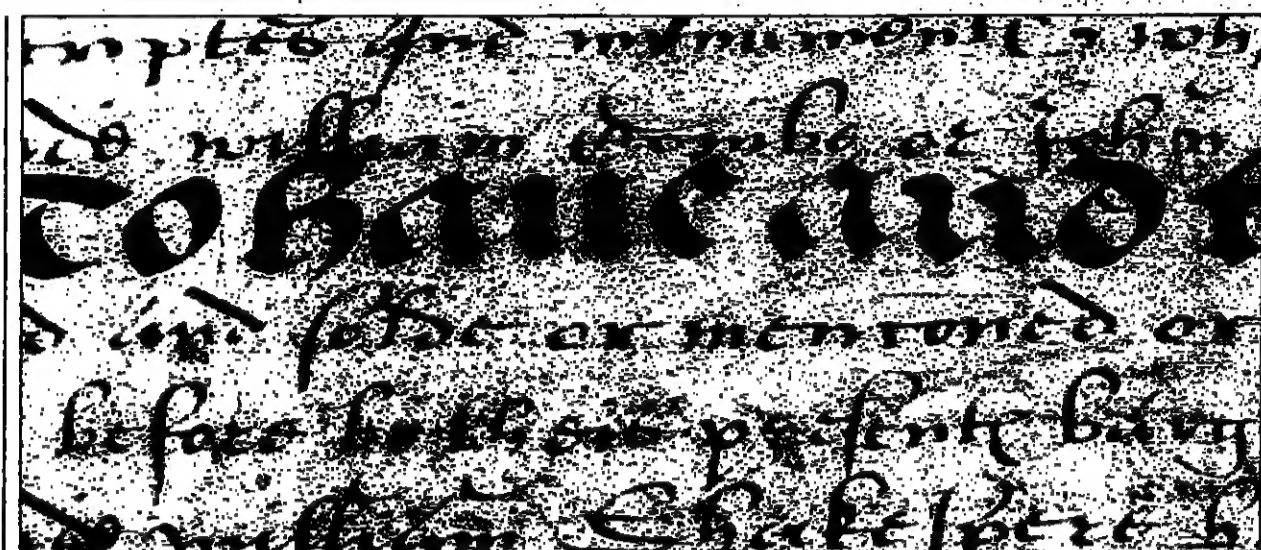
had been published, correcting earlier information.

The Association of Train Operating Companies tackled Mr Swift over the findings. David Campbell Bannerman, the association's corporate affairs director, said: "We made our views known in a robust way but it was not a huge row."

However, one senior railway manager said last night he had been "livid" over the plan to publish a "list of shame". "We are trying to put right years of poor performance on the railways and we expect the regulator to work towards improvement constructively, not by putting one company in the stocks just to gain some headlines."

Relations between the regulator and some companies have become increasingly strained since the general election, when Mr Swift began taking a harder line. Fines of £30,000 have been imposed on the companies for their failure to hit targets for answering time out of ten calls.

The latest survey by Mr Swift's office was intended to show how many of those queries that were answered, either by counter staff or on the telephone, were answered accurately.



The deed of sale for 107 acres of land in Stratford, showing William Shakespeare's name in the centre.

Bard's most boring work for sale

Rare document relating to his life emerges, reports Dalya Alberge

A YELLOWING deed dating from 1602 relating to the sale of 107 acres of land in Stratford is expected to excite collectors into paying more than £300,000 at auction.

The 20½ by 3¼ in parchment confirms the sale of strips of land to William Shakespeare who rented it out to local farmers. The legal document that he must have handled is one of only 15 documents directly relating to Shakespeare's life. Nothing comparable is likely to be offered again because the 12 others are in public institutions.

Peter Beal, a specialist at Sotheby's, which will sell it on December 12, said: "This document is a relic of a

creative genius without parallel. It brings us as close to Shakespeare the man as will ever be possible."

Lord Morris, former general editor of the *New Arden Shakespeare*, said: "This shows he was not an airy genius with his head in the clouds; while he was creating the greatest works in his canon, he was fiddling around with a bit of land."

Another leading scholar, Henry Woudhuysen, a Professor of English at University College London, said: "It would be a great pity if it left the country because it shows Shakespeare's growing wealth."

The document had been loaned for 20 years to Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust



Shakespeare: evidence of his growing wealth

Record Office in Stratford from the collections of the Earl of Warwick. The 4th Earl (1818-93), a Shakespeare intellectual, had amassed an

extraordinarily rich library at Warwick Castle.

The deed records that Shakespeare paid £320 for a series of strips of unenclosed fields within the parish of Stratford. Although the exact location is hard to pinpoint, it primarily lies near the present Guild Street.

The deed records the transfer of ownership. "... the said William Shakespeare and John Combe for and in Consideration of the summe of Three hundred and Twentie pounds of current Englishe money... doe Jellie Clearlie and absolutely alien bargayne sell give graunte and Confirm unto the said William Shakespeare All and singular those errable landes... lying or being within the parishes fields or townes of Old Stratford aforesaid in the said Countie of warwick..."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Straw joins mourners at WPC's funeral

More than 1,000 officers attended the funeral of WPC Nina Mackay who was murdered 12 days ago leading a police arrest team in Stratford, east London. The service at St John the Baptist church in Loughton, Essex, was attended by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Paul Condon. Officers were given special leave to attend the one-hour service, which was relayed by closed-circuit television. WPC Mackay, 25, was later cremated privately. Photograph, page 24

TUC injury plan

Trades unions won a record £330 million last year in compensation for members injured at work. The TUC now plans to put proposals to the Lord Chancellor for a workplace "legal aid" scheme under which unions would reach agreements with insurance companies on rehabilitation schemes for injury victims.

Labour gag stays

The rules committee of the European Parliament yesterday rejected, by the casting vote of its Luxembourg chairman, an attempt by four British Labour dissidents Ken Coates, Hugh Kennerley, Alex Falconer and Michael Hindley to have it overrule a party order that bans its MEPs from voicing views on changes in the electoral system.

Admission policy

Doctors must be more open about any harm caused by their actions or treatment, the General Medical Council decided, agreeing that if things go wrong a doctor must explain what happened to the patient and close family. New guidelines will be included in its *Good Medical Practice* booklet, a breach of which can lead to disciplinary action.

DNA appeal

French judicial officials investigating the murder of Caroline Dickinson arrived in her home town of Launceston yesterday, their second visit to Cornwall since her death in a Brittany youth hostel 16 months ago. They will ask Home Office scientists to compare a DNA sample from the killer with the British database of sex offenders.

Window ruling

An ecclesiastical court ruled in favour of parishioners at Holy Trinity Church, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, after a seven-year battle to install a stained-glass window by a local artist, the late John Potts, whose work has been accepted in more than 60 other churches. Diocesan officials had claimed it was not up to the standard of earlier work.

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Blunkett masterclass for gifted children

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

GIFTED children from primary schools will be offered "masterclasses" in an expanded network of specialist secondary schools, David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, announced last night.

He accused defenders of "sameness for all" of putting their own interests above those of pupils and their parents. Classes in science, technology, languages, arts and physical education could be offered to children of 10 and 11 who are two years ahead of their peers.

Communication technologies may be used to make the

scheme available to children who do not have a specialist centre nearby.

About 400,000 secondary pupils would attend technology colleges by 2001. Tony Blair wants to increase the 258 existing colleges to 450, while extending their facilities to pupils in other state schools. In a lecture to the Technology Colleges Trust, in London, Mr Blunkett said: "We must have more specialist schools which offer diversity within a single campus."

"We must allow children to play to their individual strengths and aptitudes. Those who want to see same-

ness for all are betraying our children. Comprehensive education must modernise. It cannot be stuck forever in the past — what some might see as a Sixties time warp."

The remarks sparked a new row over with the teacher unions, which said the initiative would lead to more selection of pupils. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "What is now dismissed as sameness used to be regarded by Labour politicians as equality of access."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the biggest teaching union, the National Union of Teachers, said: "Meeting the specialist needs of particular pupils must be taken out of the contentious debate on pupil admissions. If there is to be equality of opportunity for all pupils, schools and local authorities should be encouraged to set up separate specialist centres so that all pupils, whatever school they attend, can have equal access."

College fees deal is on the cards

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

GOVERNMENT advisers paved the way for a compromise over Oxford and Cambridge college fees yesterday, promising to safeguard teaching and research at the universities if ministers decide to reform the system.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England presented ministers with a series of options, including the retention of fees worth £37 million a year, but hinted that the eventual outcome would reduce state support. A decision is expected before the end of the month.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, asked the funding council to examine the issue after Sir Ron Dearing's report on higher education said the universities should justify receiving extra fees. Education ministers are thought to favour scrapping the fees, but Downing Street is anxious not to damage the top universities.

A middle way likely to be introduced next year would see college fees replaced by grant paid direct to the universities. Oxford and Cambridge have lobbied hard to retain the fees, which fund the colleges' individual tuition.

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Krishna and the order of the boot

British Hindus are calling for a boycott of footwear named after gods and Clarks says it has all been a terrible mistake. Ruth Gledhill reports



Collins overdose

Mother driven to suicide by guilt

By SIMON DE BRUELLES

A WOMAN whose six-year-old daughter died after drinking a glass of wine committed suicide because she blamed herself, an inquest was told yesterday. Sarah Collins, 32, took an overdose of paracetamol tablets three years after giving her daughter, Stacy, the wine with a cheese and pineapple roll for supper.

Her daughter's death haunted her and, two days before taking her life, she wrote to a friend saying that she intended to kill herself. When police, alerted by the friend, broke into Miss Collins's flat, they found a pile of empty tablet bottles alongside a suicide note addressed to her brother.

The inquest was told that Miss Collins, from Swansea, had been sentenced to three years' probation by Cardiff Crown Court in May 1995 after admitting cruelty to the child through wilful neglect. The trial judge had told her at the time: "I don't believe you would have done anything to deliberately harm your daughter, whom you loved dearly, but you must bear a significant level of responsibility for this tragedy."

Yesterday, Richard Morgan, the Swansea Coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide on Miss Collins, saying that her death was tragic.

IT SEEMED like a good idea at Clarks when someone came up with the names Vishnu and Krishna for two designs of their 'trendy' footwear. Last night, the shoe company was the target of calls for a boycott by the 900,000-strong British Hindu community for "blasphemy" over the names of gods.

Demonstrations are being organised this weekend in protest against the ladies' leather shoes and boots. The footwear is considered doubly offensive because not only is the cow sacred in Hindu theology, but shoes are considered unclean and unfit to be worn in temples.

Clarks is the second shoe company to find itself in religious difficulties recently. Nike was criticised for using the Islamic symbol for Allah on a range of training shoes. In Hindu theology Vishnu, the "preserver", is the controller of human fate and the symbol of divine love, often appearing mounted on the heavenly eagle. Krishna is his most popular incarnation, and is most commonly portrayed as a cowherd.

Clarks gives names to its shoes to help its sales personnel manage their stock. The names do not appear on the shoes, but on the boxes in which they are supplied as well as catalogues.

Vishnu, a £30 sandal in metallic, black or navy, and Krishna, an £89 black boot, have been on sale in 600 Clarks shops nationwide as well as hundreds of independent retailers. The difficulty first came to light this summer in Leicester, home to Britain's biggest Hindu community, after a Hindu bought the summer sandal and noticed the product name on the shoe box.

Community leaders say that they complained to Clarks, but have now gone public with their protests because Clarks not only failed to withdraw the summer sandal, but have now introduced the winter Krishna boot. The sandal has now sold out, but Clarks have no plans to withdraw the boot.

Clarks has apologised for offence caused, and instructed all its shops to cover over the names of the shoes. But Hindus, who have recently celebrated Diwali, the annual



Vishnu, above, and Krishna: the company should have done more research, say the Hindu critics



"festival of lights", are demanding the total withdrawal of the boot.

Harish Karunashanker Purohit, of the Federation of Hindu Priests, said: "It is blasphemous and inappropriate to have gods' names associated with shoes. Krishna and

Vishnu are as well known as Jesus is throughout the western world. We find it extremely offensive and want a public apology."

Lord Bagri, a leading member of Britain's lay Hindu community and chairman of the London Metal Exchange,

said: "I am disappointed and concerned by the lack of research by the company. In a multi-racial, multi-religious society like we have in this country, it is the obligation of marketing departments to make sure that they do not cause offence to religions and other sensitivities."

Keith Vaz, Labour MP for Leicester East, which has a large Hindu population, said: "You are not supposed to call the things you walk on after gods. The Christian equivalent would be to name a line of shoes after Jesus and the Virgin Mary. Clarks would not think of doing that."

"I am very concerned, and have written to Clarks to ask for an explanation. I don't want to go over the top, but there are religious points that need looking into. People need to be sensitive to other religions in the same way as they would be towards Christianity."

Mr Mahesh Chander Prasher, a member of the National Council of Hindu Temples, said his faith could not have been more insulted: "Footwear is considered unclean in our religion and that is why shoes are always removed on entering our temples. Hindus also considered the cow to be sacred so to associate both footwear and leather products with our gods causes a huge offence and insult."

However, a spokesman for the Hindu mission at the ornate new temple at Neasden, north-west London urged forgiveness: "I am sure it was not meant to be disrespectful. Mistakes happen and it is a part of human life. The fact that products are named after gods does not affect the status of the gods." In 1992, Hindus demanded that a French-based waste management company remove its initials "SITA" from rubbish vans operating in Leicester, because Sita is the name of the Hindu goddess of purity.

Clarks admitted last night they would not have used the names for their shoes had they been aware of their significance. A spokesman, John Keery, said: "The names only appear in a catalogue for internal use and on a label on the shoe box. The customer would not be asking for them



Krishna boot on display at a Leicester store. The name is being covered up

by name. They would only realise what the name was when they got the box to take the product home, and some customers do not use the boxes, they use plastic carrier bags.

The names are used because there are so many

different styles in shop, the staff find it easier to identify them by a name. We didn't realise in using the names that they were of such religious significance that they were likely to cause offence. If we had, we wouldn't have used them."

He said the names of the Hindu gods just "came into the head" of the person whose job it was to name the shoes. He did not believe this person was a Hindu. The boot is still on the shelves. "An instruction went out ten days ago for the name to be obscured."

Bonfire Night proves a damp squib as firework sales dive

Industry blames growing popularity of Hallowe'en and ban on sales to under-18s, says Damian Whitworth

BONFIRE night did not go with quite the same bang as usual yesterday. Sales of fireworks have plummeted since the introduction of a ban on selling to under-18s, and the increasing popularity of Hallowe'en celebrations.

In some cases manufacturers and importers of fireworks calculated that they had sold about 30 per cent fewer rockets and bangs than last year. "For every £100 spent last year, only £68 has been spent on our fireworks this year," said Howard Garman, of Celebration Fireworks, a large importer and supplier to major displays and shops.

Mr Garman blamed the new regulations, which make it an offence to sell fireworks to under-18s, previously the law applied only to under-16s. He

said that the loss of the custom of 16 and 17-year-olds was not in itself devastating, but they often reminded other people to buy. "Moving the age limit was a reasonable safety-conscious move which stopped the 14, 15 and 16-year-old hooligans from letting off fireworks in the streets. But most people sit in front of their televisions and the only thing that reminds them that Bonfire Night is coming is the hooligans letting off bangs. We wondered why people weren't buying and surveyed

people in the street. They were all saying 'Oh, is it Bonfire Night? Soon?'"

Mr Garman said that his company, based in Manchester, had increased the number of public displays it supplied, but only because of a major marketing campaign. Safety campaigning had, for some years, encouraged more people to go to displays rather than hold parties in their gardens. But now they were worried about safety at displays and were staying away.

Ron Rapley, research and

development director of Standard Fireworks, said figures were not yet available, but that sales had been disappointing. "There have been fewer fireworks let off in the area round me and that does remind people."

It has also been suggested that the enormous growth in American-style celebrations of Hallowe'en has eclipsed Guy Fawkes' Night. "In my young day we didn't even have Hallowe'en," said Mr Rapley.

Hamleys in Regent Street reported that it had sold more ghoulish masks, costumes and other monstrous paraphernalia this year than in any other. "Over the past two or three years the interest in dressing up for Hallowe'en has increased dramatically," a spokeswoman said.



The Queen Mother, on the left, planting the Royal Oak in Glasgow in 1932, and all that is left of it today



Builders cut down royal tree

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

WHAT it had taken 64 years to grow, it took just minutes for a gang of builders with chainsaws to fell.

The Royal Oak outside Mearns Kirk Hospital, Glasgow, planted by the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in 1932, was felled by builders last year. Yesterday, the company responsible, was fined £25,000.

A few days ago in Swaziland, the Prince of Wales planted a sapling with the words "Good luck, tree". There was no such luck for the tree planted by the Queen Mother, then Duchess of York,

when she came to open the hospital in the Newton Mearns area of Glasgow. Ambion Homes, who were building a private estate near the tree at the time of the felling, admitted responsibility at Paisley Sheriff Court yesterday and blamed a breakdown in communications between them and local authority planners.

Sheriff Bill Dunlop called the felling of the tree "a blunder of major proportions". Under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act he was required to exact a penalty commensurate with the value of the tree. He said: "It is quite impossible to

put a value on a tree of such age, maturity and which had such a value to the community. This tree, by its very nature, is really invaluable. I can only have a guess at it and impose a fine of £25,000."


In a recent report, Scottish Woodlands had called Glasgow's Royal Oak "obviously special" and advised its keepers to "prune and retain". Ambion Homes said they had become confused because there were trees on both sides of the street and when they cut down the Royal Oak to lay a drive, they thought they had a mandate from the local authority.



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THE TIMES THURSDAY NOVEMBER 6 1997

Lawyer tells of his faith in Louise

Barry Scheck comes down to earth and talks to Tunku Varadarajan, right, about his feelings on the

Woodward case and his belief that the charge against her will be reduced.

LOUISE WOODWARD was "absolutely, completely adamant" that she would accept only an "all or nothing" charge of murder, according to her high-flying defence attorney, Barry Scheck, clearly tired as he came down to earth after a shuttle flight from Boston, added: "That was Louise's decision. Nothing was going to budge her."

"There was no question of her accepting any manslaughter offer, because she believes she's innocent. And so do we."

The lawyer is normally elusive, but I had been on the same flight as him. In the hallway and the taxi queue at New York's La Guardia Airport, he answered questions on the controversial case. I asked: "Given the jury's verdict, and Miss Woodward's conviction for murder, do you now rue your decision to refuse the prosecution's offer of manslaughter?"

He said: "Not at all. I don't rue that. None of us does. In any case, we couldn't have done that because Louise was absolutely, completely ada-

mant that we shouldn't. We didn't want to accept manslaughter anyway. Louise is a very strong girl. You saw her on the witness stand. She's a special girl. Don't you think?" Mr Scheck added: "Why did they come to that decision, those jurors? The judge, he's got to reduce it manslaughter. I mean, he's a smart guy, a very decent, intelligent guy."

"He has no choice but to reduce the charges, has he? You saw the way he was asking all those questions at the hearing of motions by the defence and prosecution on Tuesday. He was asking for definitions of manslaughter, definitions of assault and battery. I think his mind is working towards a reduction in the charges."

Asked whether Judge Hiller B. Zobel might be thinking of reducing the charge to assault and battery, Mr Scheck said: "No, no. That won't happen. He's thinking of manslaughter, thinking very clearly." The matter would not die in Judge Zobel's court if judg-



Barry Scheck in action in court. He said: "Louise is a very strong girl, a highly intelligent girl. She believes she's innocent, and so do we"

ment favoured the prosecution, he said: "We'll appeal. Of course we'll appeal. What do you think? We're not giving up on this one. But let's not think of that yet. The judge, he'll have something to say."

He perked up when he heard of the interest and support for the case in Britain.

"So it's big there, is it? How big?" he asked. I replied: "The biggest thing since Princess Diana."

He said: "You guys, the press, should do something about this. This is a terrible situation. Look at what the alternate jurors said. That really was a bad deal for us."

One of those guys was an LL.M., you know, and there was no way he would have voted to convict Louise."

By this time, our turn came for a taxi. I entered one, to my home in Manhattan. He hauled himself into another, to his apartment in Brooklyn. As we parted, he held his hand

out and smiled a forlorn smile. I said: "Nice talking to you, Mr Scheck." He replied: "Let's pray that she's out soon."

□ In Kansas City, a young father who admitted the second-degree murder of his baby son had his 20-year sentence reduced to probation. Eric Coffey, 21, shook the boy

to death trying to stop him crying. Judge Jack Gant said: "I believe he did not mean to harm the infant. Each case is different."

"I honestly believe Coffey did not mean to harm the infant... His wife testified that the baby had kept them up all night crying."

Eappens in TV attack on their British critics

BY JAMES BONE

THE mother of the dead baby in the Louise Woodward case, Deborah Eappen, yesterday of hitting her and said it was shocking that a young British woman could harm her child.

Asked about British criticism of her, Deborah Eappen said in an interview to be broadcast on CNN last night: "They want to make someone a villain, other than the person responsible for murdering a baby. The idea that — I hate to use a stereotype — a young, white, soft-spoken, British-accented, intelligent girl could harm your child is terrifying to people."

Her husband, Sunil, used the couple's appearance on

the talk show *Larry King Live* to hit back at those who have blamed his wife for leaving their eight-month-old son Matthew in the care of a teenage au pair.

"I think it is ludicrous," he said. "To me, it's like blaming the rape victim for being raped. We should be able to expect that someone is not going to kill your child."

"It doesn't matter that Debbie was working part-time," he added. "It doesn't matter that Debbie came home at every opportunity to breast-feed Matthew. It is ludicrous to tie in our work hours, somehow connecting the death of our child."

The Eappens have made



Sunil Eappen on CNN's *Larry King Live*

several television appearances in recent days to defend their way of life as a working couple, as public opinion has shifted against them. Mr Eappen is an anaesthetist and his wife an optician, who says she works three days a week.

"It seems to me that people have a really hard time of looking at it when a kid is involved," Mr Eappen said. "You put two people in a room, a husband and wife,

and the wife comes out battered and she dies, and the husband comes out and he says: 'I don't know what happened. I didn't do anything' — no one would have trouble believing it was murder. But when you put a kid in there, a defenceless kid, all of a sudden it's a little fuzzy. It does not make sense."

Mr Eappen also criticised Woodward for not visiting Matthew during the five days he was on life-support.

Internet site crashes as thousands log on

FROM JAMES BONE IN CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

A PREVIOUSLY obscure World Wide Web page serving lawyers in Massachusetts has been swamped by tens of thousands of inquiries since Judge Hiller B. Zobel announced that he would post his decision there.

The Web site for the *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* crashed at 3.30am local time yesterday, when thousands of Britons woke up and logged on. "I am having difficulty getting on myself," said Paul Martinek, the publisher.

Judge Zobel decided to release his decision on the Internet after a conversation with his son, David, a graduate of the California Institute of Technology. He chose the *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* because it is read by 30,000 of the state's 36,000 lawyers and almost all its

judges. The Middlesex County Superior Court routinely transmits judgments electronically to the newspaper, but they have always been sent several days after their release by the court clerk. This is the first time a court decision has been handed down on the Internet. Judge Zobel evidently hoped that electronic publication would relieve the overworked court clerk, who requires each of the hundreds of reporters to pay \$1.50 a page to photocopy decisions on a single copying machine.

In response to complaints, Judge Zobel agreed to release his ruling directly to news organisations on condition that they post it also on their Internet sites. That compounded the problem for *Lawyers Weekly*, because each of those sites added a link funnel-

ling more traffic to its Internet address. Woodward's supporters have also established Internet sites on both sides of the Atlantic.

Judgments went on the Internet for the first time in English courts earlier this year. So far only four judgments have been put on the Internet, all in civil cases. The most recent was the ruling in the McDonald's libel action. The others were Court of Appeals cases.

□ The address for the *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* newspaper is: www.lawyersweekly.com. In Britain, the address for the Louise Woodward Campaign for Justice is: homepages.force9.net/louise. The Friends of Louise Woodward in America: www.masscomm.net/nanny

Thrust parts on sale in drive to cut debts

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING EDITOR

EVERY spare part, from engines to wheel nuts, that helped the Thrust jet car to break the sound barrier is up for sale as Britain's world land speed record team battles to clear huge debts.

Richard Noble, the leader of the record attempt, has ordered that equipment ranging from one of the flight suits worn by pilot Flight Lieutenant Andy Green to individual wheel nuts that could sell for as little as 5p, must be auctioned on November 29. There are also eight spare Rolls-Royce Spey jet engines, like the two taken from RAF Phantom fighters used by Thrust, though four are thought to be scrap.

A plastic nose cone will be billed as a star of the sale, but less glamorous items include documents, bearings, bolts, fire extinguishers, tools and old body panels as well as the aluminium wheels, designed to cope with the stress of carrying the seven-tonne car through the sound barrier.

All the equipment will come with a certificate guaranteeing the items as genuine spares and components. Experts from Brooks, the London auction house, will be valuing the 1,000 items for the sale.

The car will, however, remain complete and could be sold to a museum. British enthusiasts will get their first chance to see it at the Lord Mayor's Show in London on Saturday.

Mr Noble decided to hold the sale after he failed to find enough sponsors to cover the costs of running the team in America. More than 30 people were needed at an estimated cost of more than £20,000 a day as the car built up to its record speed of 763mph across the Nevada desert.

A week after the huge, jet-propelled car returned to Britain, the team has debts described as "substantial" though the exact figure is secret. Mr Noble was not available for comment yesterday but it is thought he had to raise £175,000 just to get the car, team members and spares and equipment to Nevada.

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Defrock rector for sake of his soul, says court

By Russell Jenkins

AN ADULTEROUS rector should be defrocked for the sake of his soul and the souls of others whom he may put at risk in the future, an ecclesiastical court recommended yesterday. The Rev Clifford Williams was described as a cold and unrepentant liar who had betrayed the clergy.

The uncompromising statement from a panel of judges at Caernarfon, North Wales, goes to the Bishop of Bangor for a decision. Mr Williams, 49, rector of Bentelech, Anglesey, still denies having a six-year affair with a married parishioner, Iris Green, 56.

The panel said it was inconceivable that he could remain a priest in Holy Orders within the Church in Wales. The father of three had shown no sign of regret or remorse to mitigate the offence of "leading a double life". Judge Michael Evans, QC, president of the panel, said in the written statement that Mr Williams, who lied repeatedly to his bishop, had shown a consistent incapacity to exercise his

priestly role and had betrayed the clergy by his actions. There was particular distaste, he said, for the way Mr Williams sought to blacken the name of Mrs Green, using personal diaries and letters in open court.

"We feel there would be a real element of danger — to his soul and to the souls of others, both those with whom he has already had pastoral contact and those to whom he might present himself as a clergyman in the future — if he were to remain in Holy Orders," the panel concluded.

The bishop, The Right Reverend Barry Morgan, is expected to announce his decision next week on the rector's licence and permission to officiate. Mr Williams, who lives in the rectory overlooking Red Wharf Bay, was with friends yesterday and unavailable for comment. His solicitor suggested that he would appeal to a higher ecclesiastical court within the Church and, if that failed, take his case to the High Court and



Williams panel said he was an unrepentant liar

a music teacher, said that he seduced her on a sofa when she was still vulnerable from the death of her teenage son in a motorcycle accident. As the relationship soured, she claimed he began stalking her and plaguing her with telephone calls.

The panel concluded: "We find Mr Williams used his powerful personality to overbear Mrs Green. Our concern is that, when she tried to get away from him later, he would not let her go."

The panel was surprised that Mr Williams showed no sign of emotion during the hearing. Watched closely as he gave evidence, "we were struck by his cold reaction to a highly emotional scene". The pain of Mr Williams' "betrayal" was plain to see on the faces of women parishioners who gave evidence on his behalf, the panel said.

Mrs Green made it clear through friends that she was delighted with the judgment, but has said that she is still deeply troubled emotionally by the "nightmare" she endured from her priest.



Lance Corporal Tom Byrne, with the bullet that was lodged in his scalp for three weeks after an ambush

Soldier survived shot in head

Bullet was lodged under skin for three years, writes Daniel McGrory

FOR three weeks after he was shot in Bosnia, Lance Corporal Tom Byrne walked around with a bullet lodged in his head. Medics told him it was just the result of a blow from a gun stock, while doctors gave him an aspirin and sent him back to filling sandbags. Finally the soldier persuaded surgeons to take a look at the injury. Lodged between the skull and the skin they found a slug from a Kalashnikov rifle.

"I kept insisting that I had been shot in the head during the middle of a gun

battle, but all I got for my trouble was a bandage," said Mr Byrne, 29, now a social worker in Hollingworth, Manchester. The lance corporal, the first British soldier to return fire as part of the peacekeeping operation in 1993, was shot when he and two colleagues were ambushed by a gunman in a car in Travnik, near the British base of Vitez. "During the firefight, I felt my head fly back," he said.

"But the adrenaline was pumping through me like electricity and I carried on firing." He is sure the bullet ricocheted off the

ground in front of him, ripping the brass jacket off, with the lead slug hitting him in the head. The lance corporal from the Royal Logistic Corps, who has now persuaded the Tattler MP, Martin Bell, to write the foreword to his yet-unpublished biography about the first British peacekeepers, was later mentioned in Despatches for his bravery.

"I think these Croatian soldiers who shot me were drunk and had gone out terrorising the local Muslim people," he said. "I realise I am lucky to be alive."

Life on Mir beset by skin disease

By Nick Nuttall

BOILS, itchy rashes and a hacking cough have emerged as some of the more unglamorous side-effects of a stay on Mir. A scientist monitoring the environment on the Russian space station says the filthy conditions on board should carry a health warning.

"Mir's basic hygiene is very, very poor. The Russians have kept this quiet. But there have been outbreaks of skin disease and also respiratory infection. They have also had illness from food contamination," says Mario Pizzurro, a microbiologist at Perugia University who has been working with the Russians.

Dr Pizzurro's studies, reported in *New Scientist*, show that people working and living in confined, dirty and sweaty conditions such as those on Mir shed much more bacteria than under normal conditions.

Aleksandr Viktorov, head of microbiological safety at Russia's space programme, says that crew members on Mir, which have included the Britons Helen Sharman and Michael Foale, have suffered from boils caused by skin infections.

He says space flight is known to suppress the immune system, increasing the threat from microbes floating around a capsule. Astronauts get little exercise and towards the end of a long stay in space and in the days after launch, he adds.

Men get a lesson on kerb crawling

By Richard Ford

MEN caught kerb crawling could attend classes aimed at stopping them reoffending. Instead of being cautioned or charged, they would attend eight hours of lessons during which they would meet former prostitutes and be taught about the health risks of their behaviour.

The proposal to introduce a pilot scheme in West Yorkshire comes after a similar scheme in San Francisco, which is claimed to reduce reoffending and kerb crawling.

Professor John Hanmer, director of the research centre on violence, abuse and gender relations at Leeds Metropolitan University, said that the one-day course was intended to make men face up to the consequences of their behaviour. The course, which would involve police officers, health officials and academics, would be divided into three sections in which they would be taught the legal consequences of kerb crawling, the health risks involved and the lifestyle of prostitutes.

Former prostitutes would talk directly or via video link to the men about how they became involved in vice, how it has affected their lives and what they think of their customers.

Under the proposal, men would pay to attend the classes. Ms Hanmer believes many would be willing to pay the money if it meant they would not appear in court and could tackle their behaviour.

Gibe by CNN chief fuels Murdoch feud

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

TED TURNER, the founder of Cable News Network, yesterday reignited the personal feud with Rupert Murdoch by once again likening the chairman of News Corp to Hitler.

Mr Turner, in London with his wife, Jane Pauley, was challenged yesterday by William Shawcross, author of an unauthorised biography of Mr Murdoch, whether it was true that he had likened the News Corp chairman to Hitler at a lunch on Monday. "I didn't use that word," said Mr Turner, who added that he had instead likened Mr Murdoch to "the former leader of the Third Reich".

Mr Shawcross asked the American media mogul, who is now a vice-president of Time Warner, whether it was appropriate for a businessman, man like you — who pretends and purports to be working for the benefit of mankind — to compare a competitor to Hitler? "If the shoe fits, wear it," replied Mr Turner, who was in turn accused of a "snip and cheap shot" by Mr Shawcross.

The confrontation took place during a question-and-answer session after a lunch in the library of the Reform Club attended by such media lumi-

naries as Sir Christopher Bland, Chairman of the BBC, and Lord Deedes, the former editor of *The Daily Telegraph*. The dispute between Mr Murdoch and Mr Turner blew up last year over access for News Corp's Fox News channel to cable systems. During the dispute the *New York Post* — which, like *The Times*, is part of News Corp — questioned Mr Turner's sanity in its columns.

Mr Turner's outburst surprised media analysts because the cause of the original bitterness has been removed. In July, News Corp and Time Warner reached agreement on Fox News and the channel became available on Time Warner's New York cable networks last month.

Last year Mr Turner apologised to Jewish leaders in New York for comparing Mr Murdoch to Hitler. Jewish leaders in both Jerusalem and New York had expressed their outrage at Mr Turner's remarks.

In London yesterday Mr Turner accused Mr Murdoch of "coming close to having this country [Britain] under his thumb" and added that "his [Mr Murdoch's] idea of a better world is a better world for Murdoch".

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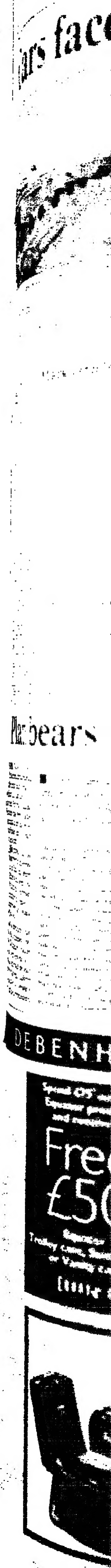
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Cars face ban from London landmarks



An artist's impression of a pedestrianised Trafalgar Square, with no traffic on the National Gallery side

Moves to pedestrianise streets are designed to free historic squares from traffic congestion and reduce pollution, writes Mark Henderson

PUBLIC access to London's most famous landmarks will be transformed under plans to ban cars from much of Trafalgar Square, Parliament Square and Whitehall announced yesterday.

The World Squares for All project, masterminded by the architect Sir Norman Foster, will create pedestrian areas linking the National Gallery with Trafalgar Square, and Westminster Abbey with Parliament Square.

A more radical proposal would also see St Margaret's Street outside the Palace of Westminster and the east and west sides of Trafalgar Square closed to through traffic.

Sir Norman said the project, launched by the Government and Westminster council, would transform London. The postcard image of London is very different on the ground," he said. "Pedestrians are treated like cattle and there is an appalling standard of urban design. These plans will reinvigorate London's

great squares, which are essentially dead at present."

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, said the scheme would free some of London's greatest historical sites from a tyranny of traffic. "Despite their magnificent architecture, Trafalgar Square, Whitehall and Parliament Square are dominated by traffic, dust and pollution," he said.

The plans will cost £20 million to £40 million and are expected to receive a substantial grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Londoners and interest groups will be asked for their opinions on the two strategies over the next few months. An exhibition of the plans opens today in Whitehall.

Final proposals will be made when the consultation process ends next spring, and Westminster council hopes to implement many of the measures before 2000.

Sir Norman said he wanted to follow successful continental models. "We are looking at



Foster: hopes plans will transform city squares

places like Place Vendôme in Paris, where they have kept the traffic but used paved streets with no kerbs to create an attractive public space," he said.

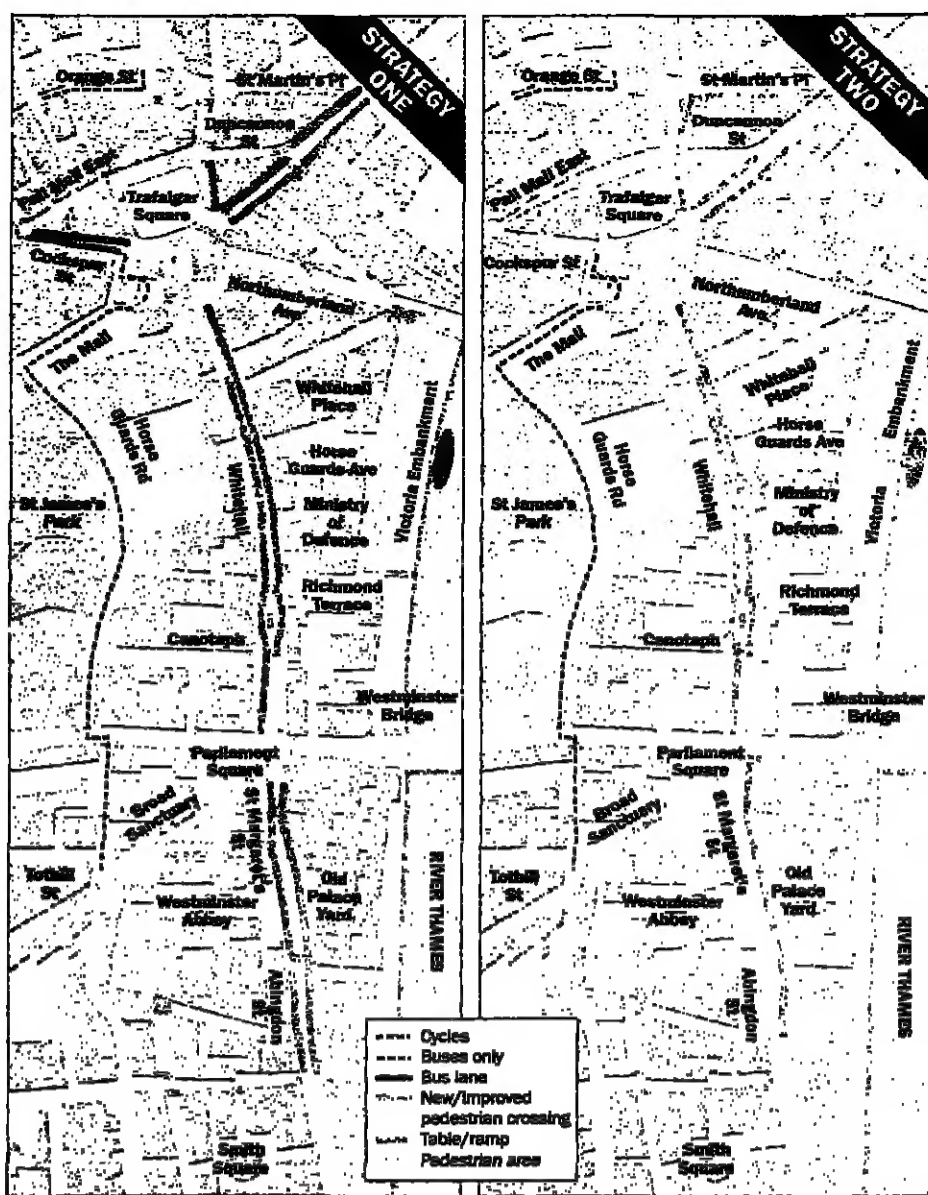
Under the first strategy, the north side of Trafalgar Square (the National Gallery side) would close to all traffic, with northbound traffic on the east side and southbound on the west. The centre of the square would be extended towards Whitehall, and the traffic island around the statue of Charles I, the most popular spot for tourists viewing Big Ben and The Mall, would be enlarged and linked to the square with an improved pedestrian crossing. St Martin's Place would be narrowed to create a new public space and Horse Guards Road would become a cycle route. Whitehall's pavements would be widened, leaving a bus lane and a single lane for general traffic.

Parliament Square would close to all traffic on the south side, with pedestrian crossings opening access to the new public space created. Car parking would be banned in Broad Sanctuary and Old Palace Yard.

The more radical strategy would ban general traffic from the east and west sides of Trafalgar Square, St Martin's Place, Horse Guards Avenue and St Margaret's Street. The Charles I island would become part of an extended Trafalgar Square, and Duncannon Street would be pedestrianised.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, welcomed the proposals. "For far too long our cities, towns and villages have been destroyed by planners as a result of their excessive deference to the motor car," he said. "If London is to remain a world city, it is time that some consideration was given to the people who live and work in its historic heart as well as the millions who visit it."

Motorists groups, though,



said they were concerned. Laura Goodes, of the AA, said: "If this is going to work we will have to address the wider question of public transport in London, which makes people drive their cars into town."

Bob Oddy, general secretary of the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association, said the plans were an absolute non-

sense. "Pedestrianisation will make no difference unless London's whole traffic problem is solved, probably with road pricing."

Sir Norman said that at worst the project would increase congestion by 5 per cent elsewhere in London. Journey times would not be increased by the first strategy, and

would rise by 7 per cent under the more radical one.

The exhibition is at the Royal United Services Institute, Whitehall, until Saturday, 8am to 8pm. From November 10-22 it will be at the Westminster Archives Centre, 10 St Ann's Street, 9.30am-7pm Monday to Friday, 9.30am-5pm Saturday.

Plan bears the hallmark of Foster's clear thinking

SIR NORMAN FOSTER has once again demonstrated the crisp, clear thinking for which his practice is renowned. For years Trafalgar Square has been a battleground, as cars, taxis, lorries and buses fight to cross each other's path.

His proposals follow on from the scheme implemented in front of Buckingham Palace, which has successfully transformed a dangerous roundabout into a simple T-junction where traffic usually flows freely.

Just as pedestrians can now walk unimpeded between Buckingham Palace and the Queen Victoria Memorial, so visitors will be able to leave the National Gallery and walk down to Nelson's Column and the surrounding

■ Pedestrianisation can often leave city centres dead at night, but yesterday's proposals would seem to offer London the best of both worlds, writes Marcus Binney

fountains without having to dodge the traffic.

The gyratory systems introduced at Trafalgar Square and Hyde Park Corner were intended to speed up traffic, but the sheer number of vehicles led to the introduction of traffic lights, which slow it down. By restoring two-way traffic to the south side of Trafalgar Square (an idea first proposed by his rival Lord Rogers), Sir Norman may ease traffic flows.

The same principles of introducing two-way traffic,

applied to Parliament Square, could also ease the present heavy congestion at the entry points, as well as linking the grounds of Westminster Abbey to the central square. No less welcome are proposals further to reduce car parking and create new pedestrian routes through Whitehall's finest buildings.

The most controversial element is the suggested removal of the unsightly clutter of cars in front of the House of Lords in Old Palace Yard, forcing peers to make use of

the underground car park across the road (which could be linked to the House of Lords by a tunnel).

A second major proposal is to open a pedestrian route through the magnificent circular courtyard of the Edwardian Treasury building, closed for security reasons about 15 years ago, on through the courtyard of the Foreign Office, across Downing Street, and into Horse Guards Parade. This proposal follows on from Tony Blair's known desire to create public access to Downing Street. As vehicles are not involved, the Security Services may not object.

Most ambitions of all is the suggestion that the large, little-used area of tarmac in Horse Guards Avenue, next

to the Banqueting House, should be planted with lines of trees to form the final link in a garden route running all the way from Kensington Palace to the Thames.

The greatest challenge facing Sir Norman is to introduce changes more simply

and swiftly than those seen recently in the Strand, where the creation of a central reservation disrupted traffic for more than a year. Many continental cities have set out to create large pedestrian zones in their centres, but these areas can be dead at

night. This would be unfortunate in London, because Trafalgar Square forms a key route to the West End. By easing traffic rather than removing it and enlarging the realm of the pedestrian, Sir Norman may just achieve the best of both worlds.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ecstasy 'damages the brain signals'

American scientists claim to have found the first direct evidence that Ecstasy may produce long-term changes in the brain. Scans of 14 users showed signs of damage to nerve junctions, with a reduced number carrying the signalling chemical serotonin, which is linked to changes in mood. In contrast, people who had used cocaine, heroin and marijuana had normal levels, according to the research from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore reported in *New Scientist*.

Murder retrial

A retrial has been ordered by Bristol Crown Court in the case of a British businessman accused of murdering his lover on a trip to India. Mohan Kular, 46, is already serving a life sentence for the murder of his wife, Ninderjit.

Windsor sale

Items from the Duke of Windsor's former mansion in Paris — owned by Mohamed Al Fayed — will be held at Sotheby's in New York in February, in aid of the Dodi Fayed International Charitable Foundation.

Aids fear for boy

A boy aged four has had an Aids test after being stabbed with a drug addict's used hypodermic needle in a school playground. Joshua Gould, of Derby, was stabbed by another pupil, aged eight, who had used the syringe.

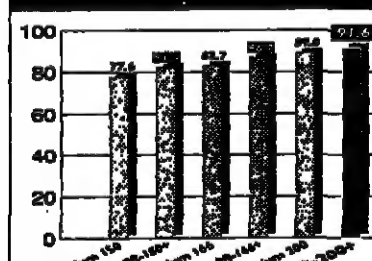
North Sea death

A man has been killed in an accident on a North Sea oil platform. John Alexander Cowie, 37, from Montrose, died when heavy machinery fell on him while he was working on Shell UK's Tern Alpha platform off Shetland.

Swan down

Saturday, a Bewick swan who has never found a mate, arrived for her 19th successive winter at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust HQ in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire. She was among the first to touch down from Siberia.

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Mutant mice give clues to ageing

By Nigel Hawkes

JAPANESE scientists have created a mouse that suffers all the ills that flesh is heir to and may help to unravel the mysteries of human ageing.

A short lifespan, infertility, blocked arteries, deteriorating skin, brittle bones and emphysema are the unhappy inheritance of the mice, and all result from a single gene mutation. The team led by Makoto Kuro-o, of the National Institute of Neuroscience in Tokyo, has named the gene *klotho*, after the figure in Greek mythology who spins the thread of life.

The gene makes a protein found on the surface of cells, and is believed to be part of a signalling pathway that may be involved in the control of ageing. Mice without the gene cannot make the protein, and suffer from symptoms similar to those of human ageing, but greatly accelerated, the team writes in *Nature*.

The team showed that the gene was indeed responsible for reinserting it into the mice, which returned to normal.

However, in a commentary in the same issue of *Nature*, George Martin, of the University of Washington in Seattle, and Saira Mian, of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California, question whether the mice really suffer the same diseases as ageing humans. Decreased bone mass in the mice, they say, is not quite the same as osteoporosis in human beings, nor is it clear that the mice ever become fully mature before going into decline.

مكذاه من رايه

Prince's cold war with press thaws in African sun

THE Prince of Wales flew home at the end of his eight-day visit to southern Africa last night, clearly relieved that it had been an unqualified success, but still somewhat mystified as to why he had had such an uncharacteristically good press.

Speaking informally to reporters on his aircraft on the last leg of his tour yesterday, a relaxed Prince said that he had only done what he always did on foreign visits, which was to promote Britain. "I did my best," he said.

He thanked journalists for not shouting questions at him during public engagements, a practice he hates as he is not a politician. He even inquired after the press corps' health, trusting that they had not picked up any nasty ailments while dogging his footsteps through three countries.

The Prince had been more willing to accommodate the needs of the press than at any time during the past decade. He held three informal meetings with journalists, and although they were largely restricted to polite social exchanges and a few jokes, they were appreciated because

Alan Hamilton and colleagues covering the tour have basked in unwonted royal favour

only the most seasoned veterans of royal tours could remember when he last did such a thing.

He was also unusually willing to look at the cameras during engagements and to perform harmless stunts, such as playing an African drum during a visit to Langat township near Cape Town, and laughing and joking with the Spice Girls on the lawn of the government guest house in Pretoria.

But for the Prince, the highlights of his visit were another chance to meet President Mandela, whom he admires hugely, and his private visit with Prince Harry to Rorke's Drift, which he

admitted had reduced him to tears. The Prince is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Regiment of Wales, whose forerunner, the 24th Regiment of Foot, fought the engagement in 1879 when 150 British soldiers defended themselves against 4,000 Zulus and won 11 VC's.

In a conversation with journalists the Prince said he had gone to Rorke's Drift to pay homage to the wasted lives of both sides. He had found the memorials and the landscape extremely moving.

The Prince asked, a little disingenuously, if the press had got there. They had not, as it was a private day, and reporters and cameramen observed strictly the request that there should be no pursuit of Prince Harry except when he accompanied his father to a Spice Girls concert and to a Zulu village north of Durban.

Few people come away from an encounter with Mr Mandela anything other than deeply impressed. The Prince, who met him recently at the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh, is no exception. He admires the President's ability to forgive



Prince Edward, on a three-day visit to New Zealand, exchanging a hongi greeting with Wiremu Karamaina, 16, in Wanganui yesterday. The trip included a visit to Wanganui Collegiate, where the Prince was a pupil

after 27 years in the coils of the apartheid regime, and sees a parallel with his former mentor, Laurens van der Post, who was cruelly treated during three years as a Japanese prisoner of war. Imprisonment, the Prince feels, does something to a man that can bring out great good.

For his first official visit since the death of his former wife, the Prince could hardly have chosen a better destination than South Africa, where he is well known and general-

ly well liked, and where he was virtually guaranteed a warm welcome and even, on occasion, crowds of respectable size. He made much throughout his visit of the longstanding ties with Britain, from the arrival of the first Methodist missionaries in 1844 to Britain's largest trading partner.

During his conversation with journalists, he said he was happy to help promote the country in any way he could. He even took a tolerant and kindly view of Britain's most recent export, the Spice Girls, whom he regarded as "rather special and rather splendid".

He made a particularly good impression when, at a banquet hosted by Mr Mandela, he went further than he has before in acknowledging the charity work done by his former wife. Many South Africans wrote to him at the time of her death, and at the end of his

speech he received a standing ovation from the guests, including Earl Spencer, the late Princess's brother.

Three informal meetings with journalists, at which no cameras were allowed, hardly warrant the "charm offensive" label that some newspapers have attached to the Prince's recent demeanour. But he does give the impression that a cloud has lifted, and that his cold war with the media has thawed—at least for the time being.

Ministry admits trawlers spied on Soviets

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE Ministry of Defence has admitted publicly for the first time that British trawler skippers were recruited to spy on Soviet naval activities during the Cold War.

Officials were speaking in response to a television documentary to be screened tonight about the disappearance 23 years ago of the Hull-based trawler the *Gaul* with the loss of all the 36 crew.

Dispatches on Channel 4 will broadcast film taken by a remotely-controlled camera of the vessel lying on the seabed some 60 miles off the north coast of Norway.

Former trawler skippers tell the programme that they spied on Soviet fleet movements out of Murmansk at the request of the Government and were given cameras for the task by a man calling himself Commander Brooks. Lord Rodgers of Quayle, then a Labour Government Minister of Defence, asserted in a letter to a Hull MP at the time of the disaster that "the British trawler fleet is not involved in any way in intelligence gathering".

Lord Rodgers admits to the programme that this statement was "palpably on the evidence not true" and that he now believes he was "seriously misled" by his officials.

The recipient of Lord Rodgers's letter was John Prescott, MP for Hull East since 1970, now also the Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Secretary. He is being pressed by relatives of the *Gaul*'s crew to reopen the inquiry into its fate.

Mr Prescott declined to be interviewed by *Dispatches*, but a spokesman said yesterday that he would "welcome and consider any new evidence the programme can provide".

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday: "In the years prior to 1974 a very limited number of vessels assisted the Government in specific intelligence gathering." However, officials insisted that the *Gaul* was not among these.

The official inquiry into the disappearance of the *Gaul* concluded that the boat capsized after being struck by huge waves.

The makers of the *Dispatches* programme reject the official view but concede that their film does not explain the sinking. However, it speculates that the vessel may have been involved in laying, or recovering a military communications cable for monitoring Soviet submarine movements.

Chefs told to bone up about food allergies

By IAN MURRAY

WAITERS and chefs should know exactly what ingredients are in the meals they serve, according to a food safety campaign launched by the Government yesterday. The idea is that they will be able to warn diners if the recipe contains something that could cause an allergic reaction.

Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister, said that even tiny amounts of nuts, shellfish and some seeds in food could affect people with allergies and could even prove fatal. Recent research suggested that one in 200 people suffered from food allergies, he said.

"Fobbing customers off with the wrong answer could make them seriously ill, or even kill. If you don't know, don't guess. Find out," he told a food intolerance conference in London. Posters and leaflets are being sent to more than 150,000 restaurants, cafes and pubs as part of the campaign.



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Dixons

There's a Great Deal going on

Minister admits
trawlers
spied on
Soviets

Blair condemns suspension of poppy wearers

By Nicholas Watt and Audrey Magee

PEOPLE should not be penalised for wearing British remembrance poppies, the Prime Minister said yesterday as he rebuked a factory in Northern Ireland that has suspended 20 workers without pay for wearing them.

Tony Blair's intervention in the Commons came as Mary McAleese, the Irish President-elect, said that she would not wear a poppy at her inauguration, which takes place next week on Armistice Day.

Dr McAleese, a Northern Irish Roman Catholic who has repeatedly claimed that she can help to unite nationalists and Unionists, decided that it would be inappropriate for the Irish President to wear a poppy. She said: "I have given the matter deepest consideration but I decided after long deliberation that, apart from the shamrock, the President should not wear emblems or symbols of any kind."

As Unionists criticised her, Downing Street source said that Dr McAleese's decision was a matter for her.

However, at Prime Minister's Questions Mr Blair made clear his irritation with the Coats Vyella factory in Londonderry which has suspended

the 20 workers, including a Falklands veteran. Asked by David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, about the suspensions, Mr Blair, who was wearing a poppy, said: "Of course I agree that people should not be penalised for wearing poppies. Both traditions and both sides of the community in Northern Ireland want to support what happened in the Second World War and realise what a tremendous contribution was made by people, whatever their religion, in fighting that war and winning it."

The wearing of poppies is a sensitive issue in Northern Ireland because many nationalists, among them moderate members of the SDLP, regard the poppy as a symbol of Unionism and British imperialism. Unionists are perplexed by the opposition to poppies because, they say, thousands of Irish people, from both sides of the border and from both traditions, died in both wars this century serving in the British Army.

The poppy issue has been given added poignancy this year because this weekend marks the tenth anniversary of the massacre in Enniskillen.

Major Hume Grogan, the British Legion's administrator, said that the legion was not disappointed about Dr McAleese's decision not to wear a poppy. "She can build bridges in other ways," he said. "The fact that she is

attending the religious service shows that she is willing to try."

Mrs Robinson was the first Irish Head of State to attend the commemoration ceremonies. She went first in 1995; she did not wear a poppy, but her husband did.



McAleese said it was inappropriate for an Irish President to wear a poppy

Officer tells of fatal shooting

Hampered by CS gas and darkness,

police marksman fired six shots at

IRA suspect, reports Adam Fresco

A POLICE marksman described yesterday how he shot and killed a suspected IRA terrorist at close range as CS gas engulfed him.

The officer was meant to be the first person to storm a room believed to be occupied by several armed terrorists who had talked about shooting officers if confronted, a jury at the Old Bailey was told. The operation to arrest the men in September last year was the culmination of weeks of intelligence-gathering on a five-man unit that was believed to be planning a major bombing campaign in London. The jury was told.

A key failed to open the door of room 303 in the hotel in

Hammersmith, West London, then a battering ram made only a hole in the door, the jury was told. The officer said: "I believe there were shots of 'armed police' from my unit. Two rounds of gas were fired. It caused my eyes to run and I had difficulty breathing."

"I heard officer Mike shoot that there was one kneeling down at the back of the room. I heard more shots of 'armed police'. At this point the door

opened very quickly about five inches and I screamed 'Show me your hands.' The room was in darkness. The door shut and opened again about 18in and again I screamed, 'Show me your hands.'

"I could see a figure silhouetted in the doorway now. He had not reacted to anything. His body language was aggressive. I believed I could hear shots coming from inside the room and I fired two shots

in his direction. That had no effect, so I fired another two shots, quickly followed by another two shots."

The shot man, Diarmuid O'Neill, 26, was said by the prosecution to be "a vital member of a Provisional IRA active service unit. Brian McHugh, 31, unemployed, from Birmingham; Patrick Kelly, 31, unemployed; James Murphy, 26, a school groundsman from Chelsea; and Michael Phillips, 22, a British Airways apprentice engineer from Surrey, all deny conspiring to cause explosions with O'Neill and possessing explosives with intent to endanger life.

The trial continues.

Spring quits as Labour leader

By Audrey Magee

DICK SPRING, one of the architects of Northern Ireland's peace process, resigned as leader of the Irish Labour Party yesterday after its disastrous showing in last week's presidential election. Adi Roche, the candidate hand-picked by him, received only 7 per cent of the vote to finish fourth out of five.

Mr Spring, 47, told his parliamentary party yesterday, before the tabling of a no-confidence motion in his leadership, that he was resigning "with regret" after 15 years.

Mr Spring led his party to its greatest election success in 1992, when it secured 33 seats in Parliament. He was Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister in two coalition Governments and helped to produce the first IRA ceasefire.

But in the June general election Labour lost half its seats and was forced into opposition. Mr Spring will be replaced by Ruairi Quinn, the deputy leader, until an election is held on November 13.

Saturday in
THE TIMES



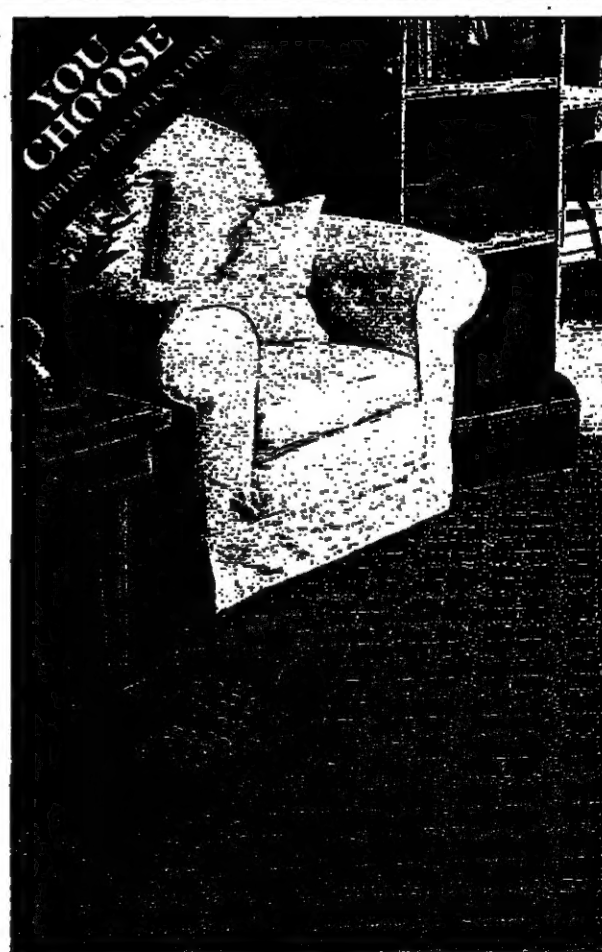
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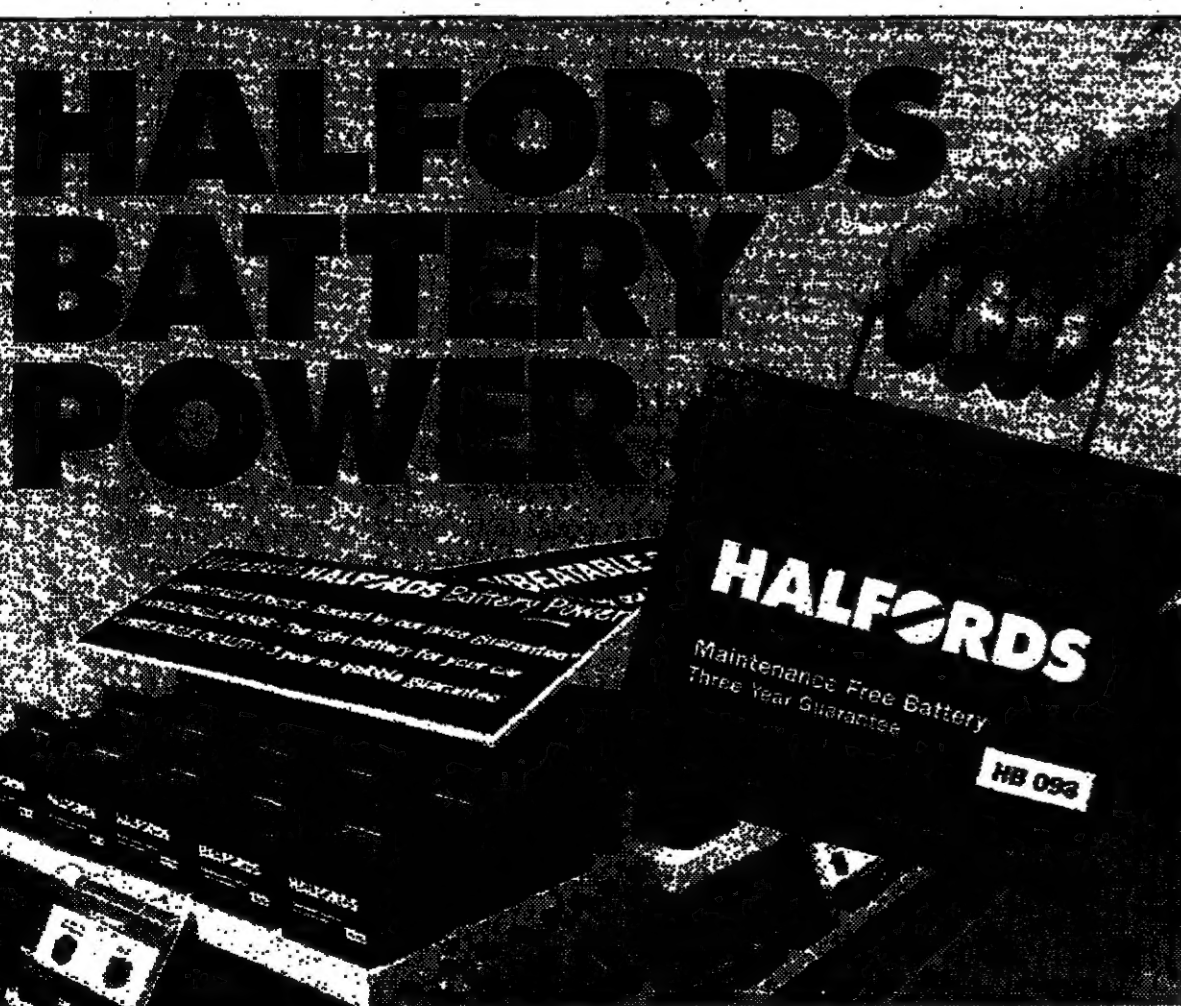
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مركزاً من رالاميل

Two years of campaigning led to U-turn

By Jill Sherman and Ian Murray

TONY BLAIR struck the deal to exempt Formula One motor racing from the proposed tobacco sponsorship ban at a meeting with racing chiefs at Downing Street on October 16. The Prime Minister was persuaded by Max Mosley, president of the sport's governing body and Bernie Ecclestone, president of the Formula One Association, that the future of motor racing would be jeopardised and thousands of jobs lost if the sport was covered by the ban. The meeting was the culmination of a two-year lobbying campaign. Senior administrators met Mr Blair at social events before and after the election. They noticed that both Tony Blair and John Prescott were motor racing enthusiasts.

Mr Blair attended the British Grand Prix with his family last year, while Mr Prescott went in 1995 and this year.

THE DEAL

"We have always had a better relationship with Labour than the Conservatives," Mr Mosley said last night. "They are more interested in the sport."

Mr Blair's direct intervention comes after months of negotiations between Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, the tobacco industry and the motor sports industry.

Labour has had a long-standing commitment to ban tobacco advertising which appeared in its election manifesto. But the move was not one of Tony Blair's priorities, and was hardly mentioned in the election campaign.

Westminster was taken by surprise when Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary decided to go further with a ban on tobacco sponsorship of sport. Mr Mosley said: "We were a bit horrified when they an-

nounced it after the election because it meant there was a whole new agenda. Lobbying then doubled and redoubled."

Other ministers targeted included Ms Jowell. Mr Mosley said: "She wants to reduce the amount of advertising. In the end we were able to show her that the most efficient way is not to have a ban, which would increase the amount of advertising on television, but to have a voluntary agreement."

The first signs that the lobbying paid off came in September when Frank Dobson conceded that Britain would allow existing contracts with tobacco sponsors to run their course. But both he and Ms Jowell were still insisting that no sports would be excluded from the ban.

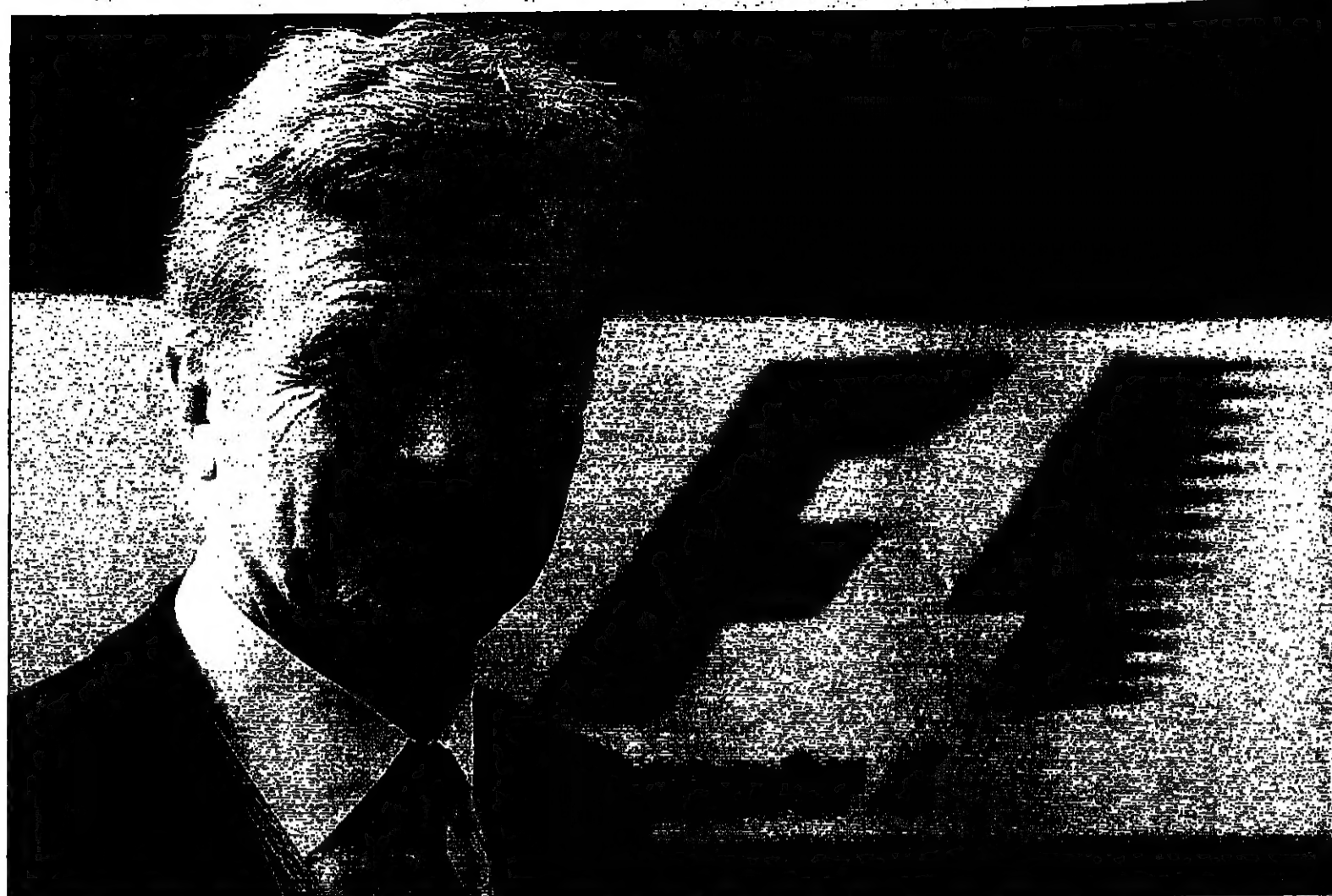
Mr Mosley and his team pressed on, stressing the impact on jobs. "Their arguments were very persuasive," Downing Street said.

Mr Mosley, who gave up smoking 30 years ago because of the health risks, said that if the ban went ahead the sport would have staged only three Grand Prix events inside the European Union each year instead of nine. Four of the others would probably have gone to eastern Europe and one each to Asia and Africa.

"This is not blackmail. We are a sport that can run inside the EU or outside the EU. If we are deprived of sponsorship worth more than £100 million then it is quite obvious that we will go elsewhere."

He added: "We are totally committed to bringing in a voluntary code which will reduce advertising. We have made it clear that if they deliver this exemption from the EU directive, we will deliver a meaningful code."

However, there were forecasts yesterday that technology may allow Formula One to keep tobacco sponsorship and not offend anti-smoking campaigners within the next three years. With digital television, tobacco-sponsored



Max Mosley denies that Britain and the EU are being blackmailed. Any sport deprived of £100 million in sponsorship would go elsewhere

Sport chasing TV audience and new addicts

By Michael Calvin

POWER SHIFT

THE threat to shift Formula One's powerbase from Europe to the Pacific Rim was couched in common courtesies. But anyone with a rudimentary knowledge of the world's most commercially successful sport knew it was not an idle gesture.

Two new circuits, in Malaysia and South Korea, will be ready to be included in the Formula One calendar from 1999. Plans for expansion into Indonesia, China and India are well advanced.

Traditionalists, outraged by the prospect of races such as the British Grand Prix being held only once every three years to compensate for the shift in the sport's centre of gravity, are powerless. Formula One's success is based upon its global nature. It claims an average of 320 million viewers in 130 nations for each of the season's 17 races.

The Pacific Rim offers 70 per cent of the global television audience; the European Union only 12 per cent. Asia is a key developing market for the cigarette companies, who underpin the leading teams with sponsorship packages of up to £40 million a year.

Reemsa, a German com-

pany, pushes its West brand through the McLaren team. Rothmans plans to use a new two-year deal with world champions Williams to promote its Winfield brand. Ferrari defied tradition by accepting backing from Marlboro.

The French-based Prost team carries the Gazelle logo, and the Benetton and Minardi teams feature the Mild Seven brand, marketed by Japan Tobacco.

The sums involved in sustaining a challenge in a sport that operates on the edge of technology are so immense, that a new team built around Jacques Villeneuve, the current champion, planned for 1999, would be stillborn without the backing of British American Tobacco. Sources suggest that BAT is prepared to invest up to £250 million.

The only team to make a conscious effort to distance itself from cigarette sponsorship is Stewart Grand Prix, launched this year by former world champion Jackie and his son, Paul. It is the only team sponsored by a country, Malaysia, and has developed supplementary sponsors with business interests in the region.

An expertise unrivalled in the world

By Kevin Eason

INDUSTRY

BRITAIN risked damaging a showcase industry employing more than 50,000 people if Formula One was thrown into turmoil by the loss of tobacco sponsorship.

The most successful cars, the best engines, the top designers, and the best mechanics all come from Britain, whose domination of world motor sport is almost embarrassing.

That entrepreneurial spirit and technical skills have been channelled into an industry worth £1.3 billion and which exports half of its products. About 90 per cent of the world's race and rally cars are made here.

Motor racing, spearheaded by Formula One, also has one of the highest worldwide profiles with names including McLaren, Williams and Cosworth becoming bywords for innovation and excellence. Losing the sponsorship could have pushed companies to search for finance in the Far East where rules are more relaxed. This would ultimately tempt even the most patriotic racing teams to invest at least some of their ventures there.

The risk was one the industry could not afford to take. A range of activities — from specialist engineering and

electronics companies to design colleges — would have been affected.

British dominance is nowhere better demonstrated than on the grid for each of this season's Formula One races: of the 20 cars lining up, 12 were made in Britain; France and Switzerland field a single team each, Italy two.

In 40 seasons of modern F1 racing, a British manufacturer or car with British engine power has won 32 times. That does not tell the entire story though for much of the pit-lane technology comes mainly from companies in a golden triangle bounded by the M4 from Slough, through Oxfordshire up to the M1 at Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire.

When Mercedes-Benz wanted to enter Formula One with its own engine, it looked for expertise in the tiny village of Brighthelm, in Northamptonshire. The logos on this year's McLarens, which come from Surrey, say engines by Mercedes, but they are made by British workers at Ilmor Engineering.

Almost all the cars on the grid for CART racing — formerly known as IndyCar — in the US are supplied from Britain, by Reynard and Lola.

MAN IN THE NEWS

MAX MOSLEY, 57, head of motorsport's world governing body, sacrificed a career at the bar to pursue his ambition to become a racing driver. It was a dream that ended when he crashed at 150mph in his Lotus at Nürburgring 30 years ago.

He had taken part a year earlier in the Formula Two race at Hockenheim in which Jim Clark was killed, and his own crash convinced his wife that the sport was too dangerous to allow him to go on driving.

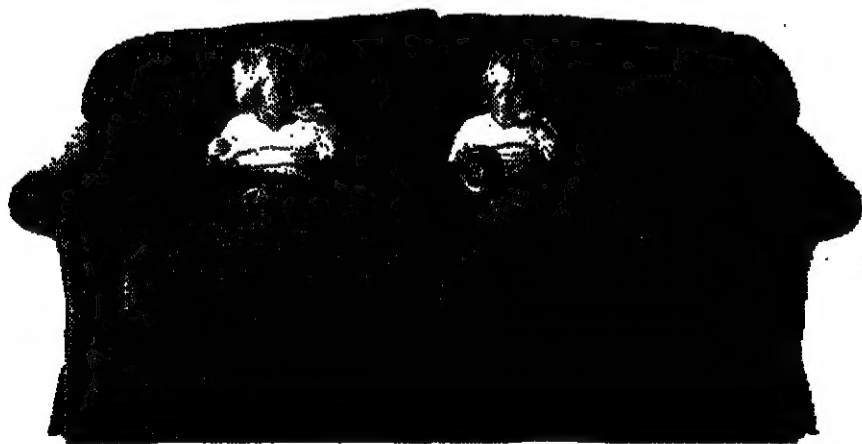
The son of Oswald Mosley, he flirted briefly with the idea of becoming a Tory politician, but decided instead to enter motor racing and founded the March team. He quickly became outspoken at meetings and became friends with Bernie Ecclestone, the Brabham team owner. The two took on the responsi-

bility for negotiating for all Formula One teams and they naturally became the two leading figures in the sport.

As president of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, Mr Mosley sees his role as representing motorists worldwide. He uses his position to influence the EU and spends a lot of time in Brussels negotiating behind the scenes about safety, which his own crash experience has turned into an obsession.

The politics of the sport intrigues him and he thrives on it. This means he has no regrets that his father's name meant he felt he could not enter British politics. "As soon as I go abroad nobody cares about my name, so the obvious thing is to work for an international organisation," he said.

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Hijackers get lenient terms after jury's plea

BY PAT CLARKE

SIX Iraqis who fear death under Saddam Hussein's regime were jailed for terms ranging from five to nine years yesterday after hijacking a jet and forcing it to fly them to Britain.

Armed with "grenades" that were in fact sauce bottles, knives and claiming to have explosives, the Iraqis terrorised 197 passengers and crew for 20 hours. A jury at the Old Bailey convicted them last week of the armed hijack of the Sudan Airways aircraft, but sent a note to the judge saying that they felt "great compassion" for the defendants. Mr Justice Wright told the six that, although he paid "close attention" to the jurors' plea for compassion, "I must pass sentences that reflect society's condemnation."

Eight of the jury returned today to see the Iraqis sentenced. The judge said the entire jury had expressed their sympathy with the situation in which the Iraqis found themselves. "Clearly I must pay great attention to that expres-



Special Forces ending the hijack in August last year

sion from the 12 ordinary members of the British public who have listened attentively to all the evidence in this case, and I do."

He gave his assurance that, because of the jury's plea, he was prepared "in the circumstances of this case" to pass significantly shorter sentences than he would otherwise have done. "Nevertheless, nothing can obscure the fact that the

offence you six men planned and carried out is an offence of the greatest possible gravity and carries the maximum sentence of life imprisonment."

He said in the past seven years there had been 225 hijacks or attempted hijacks. "It is of the highest importance that I pass sentences on you that deter others from a similar course," he said.

The most serious aspect of

the case of all arises out of the international nature of this offence. This country, as a member of the international community, owes obligations to the world at large to do whatever is in our power to protect international airline communications and the many thousands of people travelling on airlines every year."

Mr Justice Wright added that part of that duty was to make clear that no one dissatisfied with conditions in their own country should think they could force their way into the United Kingdom's jurisdiction without facing the severest penalties.

"In this kind of case, perhaps above all others, deterrence is a particular aspect and important part of my responsibility. I have to have regard to the abject terror you inflicted on your fellow passengers, even though it may only have been for a relatively short time at the outset of the hijack."

He added that, at times during the lengthy evidence brought on behalf of the six



The hijackers at the Old Bailey, from left: Hoshan, the leader, Muhssin, Hussin, Nagi, Hasan and Aboud

defendants, the passengers had been forgotten.

Adnan Hoshan, 39, the leader of the hijack, was sentenced to nine years. He had come to Britain in 1987 to study performing arts and applied for asylum in 1990. He said if he had returned to Iraq, "I would be in a prison if I was lucky. It does not cost more than 50p for a bullet."

Hoshan lived in North

London and wanted his fiancée and her family to join him, the prosecution had said. The woman and her female relatives had also fled from Iraq after some male relatives had died or disappeared, the court was told. It emerged during the trial that Hoshan had acted as a Scarlet Pimpernel figure, helping Iraqis to escape.

The judge told him: "You

were in no personal danger. You conceived, led and planned this exploit. You behaved in a terrifying way in the early stages. Yours is undoubtedly the greatest responsibility for the crime."

In the dock with Hoshan were Saheb Aboud, 31, unemployed; Hasah Hasan, 34, self-employed; Mustafa Hussin, 33, student; Maged Nagi, 36, unemployed; and Muham-

mad Muhssin, 39, a clothing worker. They had all denied hijacking an aircraft between Khartoum and Amman between August 25 and 28 last year. Muhssin and Aboud were jailed for seven years, and the remaining three for five years.

The hijackers may achieve their goal to stay in Britain: a criminal record is no bar to being granted asylum. (PA)

£7.5m win for soccer museum in extra time

BY ROBIN YOUNG

A NEW museum dedicated to the history of football is to receive a grant of £7.5 million from lottery funds to open at one of the original homes of the game: Preston North End's Deepdale ground. The grant is £1.3 million more than the figure agreed in principle last February, and will mean the project can be built on a grander scale.

The extra work involved will mean, however, that the Football Museum will not now be open until 1999, 18 months later than envisaged.

Preston North End was one of the founder members of the Football League in 1888, and the faces of its team which won the league and the FA Cup double in the 1888-89 season have pride of place among the collection, which also has items belonging to such legends of the game as Sir Stanley Matthews and Sir Bobby Charlton.

The core of the displays will be memorabilia currently owned by Fifa, the sport's governing body, acquired largely from Harry Langton, a Yorkshire-born sports journalist who gathered together the world's largest collection

of football art. The collection includes representations of ancient Chinese, Greek, Roman and Anglo-Saxon forms of football, works of art depicting the 19th-century game, and the oldest known football game, manufactured in Preston in 1894.

The club's most celebrated player, Tom Finney, has contributed his collection of caps and boots, and Derby County supporters turned out the bell and rattle with which they toured the country on their Cup-winning run just after the Second World War. Kevin Moore, the museum's director, said: "Other football display projects may have more of Disney or interactive about them, but ours is a museum with a serious intent and a collection of real items."

"We have already established an institute of football studies in association with the University of Central Lancashire, and show our serious research purpose through the publication of Dr David Russell's book, *Football and the English*."

Football, pages 44, 48

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Conran helps Blair to show off British style

Polly Newton on the Government's attempt to prove that anything the French can do we can do better

TONY BLAIR has drafted in Sir Terence Conran in an attempt to prove that Britain can outdo French style.

At the Government's request, and for no fee, the man who founded the Habitat chain of furniture stores has transformed one of the top floors at Canary Wharf tower in London's Docklands in preparation for tomorrow's Anglo-French summit there.

Sir Terence has used furniture by a clutch of young British designers to create the striking setting for discussions between Mr Blair, his French counterpart, Lionel Jospin, and the French President, Jacques Chirac.

A Downing Street spokesman said last night that the aim was to portray Britain's fresh image under Labour.

"We will prove that we can show the French a thing or two about style," he said.

Sir Terence has used furniture by designers including Tom Dixon, Matthew Hilton,

Jasper Morrison and Terence Woodgate. His task was to turn a huge open floor space into more intimate meeting rooms where ministers and officials can comfortably discuss such issues as the French lorry drivers' blockade and the single currency.

Nothing has been left to chance. There are designer rugs, designer flower arrangements and designer lights. The food is being provided by Anton Escalera, chef at the Midsummer House restaurant in Cambridge.

It is not the first time that he has done Mr Blair a favour. He was one of a handful of successful business executives to endorse Labour before the general election, appearing in a broadcast on behalf of the party.

This year he provided a table at short notice at one of his smartest restaurants, the Pont de la Tour in Butler's Wharf, for the Prime Minister and his wife, Cherie, to enter-



Conran: backed Blair before the election

tain President and Mrs Clinton.

Sir Terence, 66, who has an informal role advising the Government, said in May: "This is the first time in my lifetime that I have known a Government to be involved and interested in the importance of design and architecture."

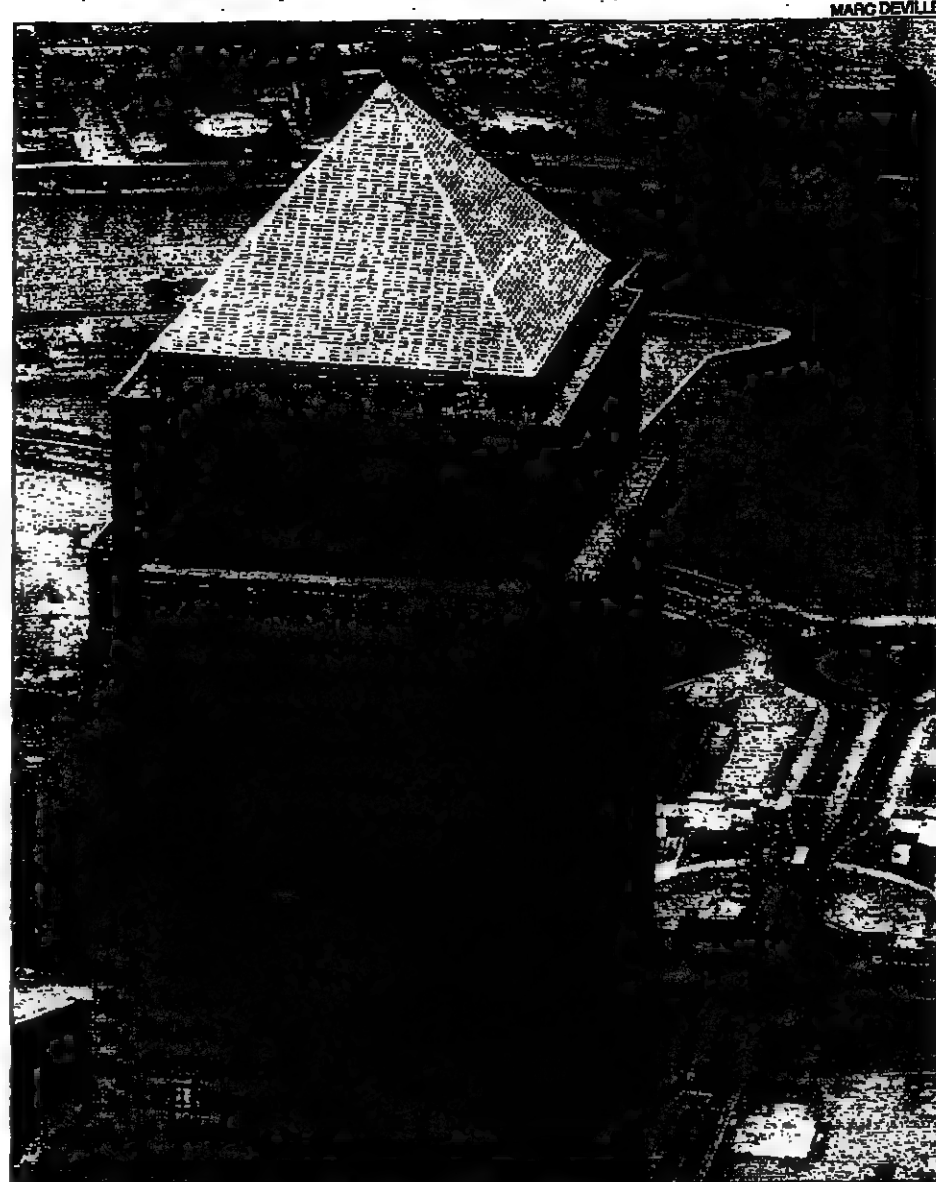
Once described snootily as "the Andrew Lloyd Webber of kitchenware and scatter cushions", he sold his ground-breaking Habitat chain to Ikea several years ago. He has since built up a new retail business of Conran Shops. His restaurant empire, which

includes Quaglino's and Mezzi, has expanded greatly over the past few years and is now estimated to cater for 70,000 diners a week.

Canary Wharf, the tallest office tower in Europe, was chosen as the summit venue as part of Mr Blair's drive to update Britain's image. Previous summits have been held in Downing Street and Chequers. A Government spokesman said the setting would help to promote Britain on the international stage. "It is a modern building with spectacular views in a regenerated part of the capital."

The departure from tradition follows the Government's decision last month to opt for a new style of opening ceremony at the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh. The lone Scottish piper was dropped in favour of a video displaying Britain's achievements in design, technology and finance.

Security at the Anglo-French summit will be particularly tight. In February last year, the IRA chose Docklands to end its 17-month ceasefire with a bomb that killed two people. Canary Wharf tower was also the target of an attempted IRA attack in November 1992.



Canary Wharf: Sir Terence has prepared an upper floor for the Anglo-French summit

Rebel MP rebuked by Tory colleagues

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE rebel Tory MP Peter Temple-Morris has been rebuked by pro-European party colleagues over his claims they would challenge William Hague's leadership.

Members of Conservative Mainstream, a revamped umbrella organisation of left-of-centre Tories, has written to Mr Hague to deny Mr Temple-Morris's suggestion that they would operate as a factional group.

The letter was released to coincide with the second annual conference of Mainstream at Westminster today, which is the relaunch of the pro-European Tories' fightback. Strenuous attempts have been made by the organisers to portray the gathering as a constructive policy forum.

Tony Baldry, chairman of Mainstream's parliamentary group, said in the letter: "When announcing that he intended to stay within the Conservative Party... Mr Temple-Morris made a number of references to Mainstream that were not correct. There is no substance in the suggestion that Parliamentary Mainstream has any desire to challenge the party leadership or in any way be a disruptive force within the party."

Mr Temple-Morris, who last week withdrew his threat to defect to Labour over the Shadow Cabinet's headline opposition to a single currency, will now make only a fleeting appearance at the conference. He had been expected to play a leading role.

Tory leaders are hoping that the conference will not aggravate differences on the euro. Kenneth Clarke, one of the principal speakers, will restrict his remarks to the economy but Lord Howe of Aberavon is expected to criticise the Shadow Cabinet.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: questions to agriculture ministers and the Attorney General; Supreme Court (Office of the Lord Chancellor); House of Commons (Presidential and Republican); 2nd reading; debate on London Fire Service; in the Lords: debate on defence.

How Nolan's successor can keep up the good work

ONE of the most valuable legacies of John Major's premiership is the Nolan committee, more formally the Committee on Standards in Public Life. Since 1994, it has had a far-reaching impact not just on Parliament but on standards throughout government. From this weekend, however, it will no longer be the Nolan committee since Lord Nolan is stepping down, with an appropriate flourish: marked by the Dumbleby lecture last night, appearances before Lords and Commons committees, and a final progress report tomorrow. Last night he offered the best definition so far of sleaze as "the selfish use of public office for personal advantage. Sleaze is not necessarily financial, and not necessarily illegal. It involves bend-

ing the rules without breaking them."

The Nolan committee will always be associated with the cash-for-questions affair and the resulting changes in the regulation of MPs' affairs. But its real significance is much wider. As Lord Nolan pointed out, Mr Major set up the committee not just as a short-term solution to immediate political pressures, "a crisis of confidence about the behaviour of those in public office", but as a standing "ethical workshop" — though I am less sure than his lordship that anyone in Whitehall had then really thought out what this meant.

At times, the committee has appeared unworried, just blaming a few "bad apples" for exaggerated

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

public perceptions of sleaze. Nonetheless, it has addressed structural weaknesses and established itself in this role, what he describes as "slightly outside the system". It has done what MPs and government had failed to do over many years — deal with growing abuses, respond to evident ethical confusion and produce new codes of conduct. Inside reform had not worked, so it was necessary for an outside body to propose a solution — having the authority to ensure that its recommendations would be accepted. But it has not applied the new codes.

Parliament has remained responsible for its own regulation.

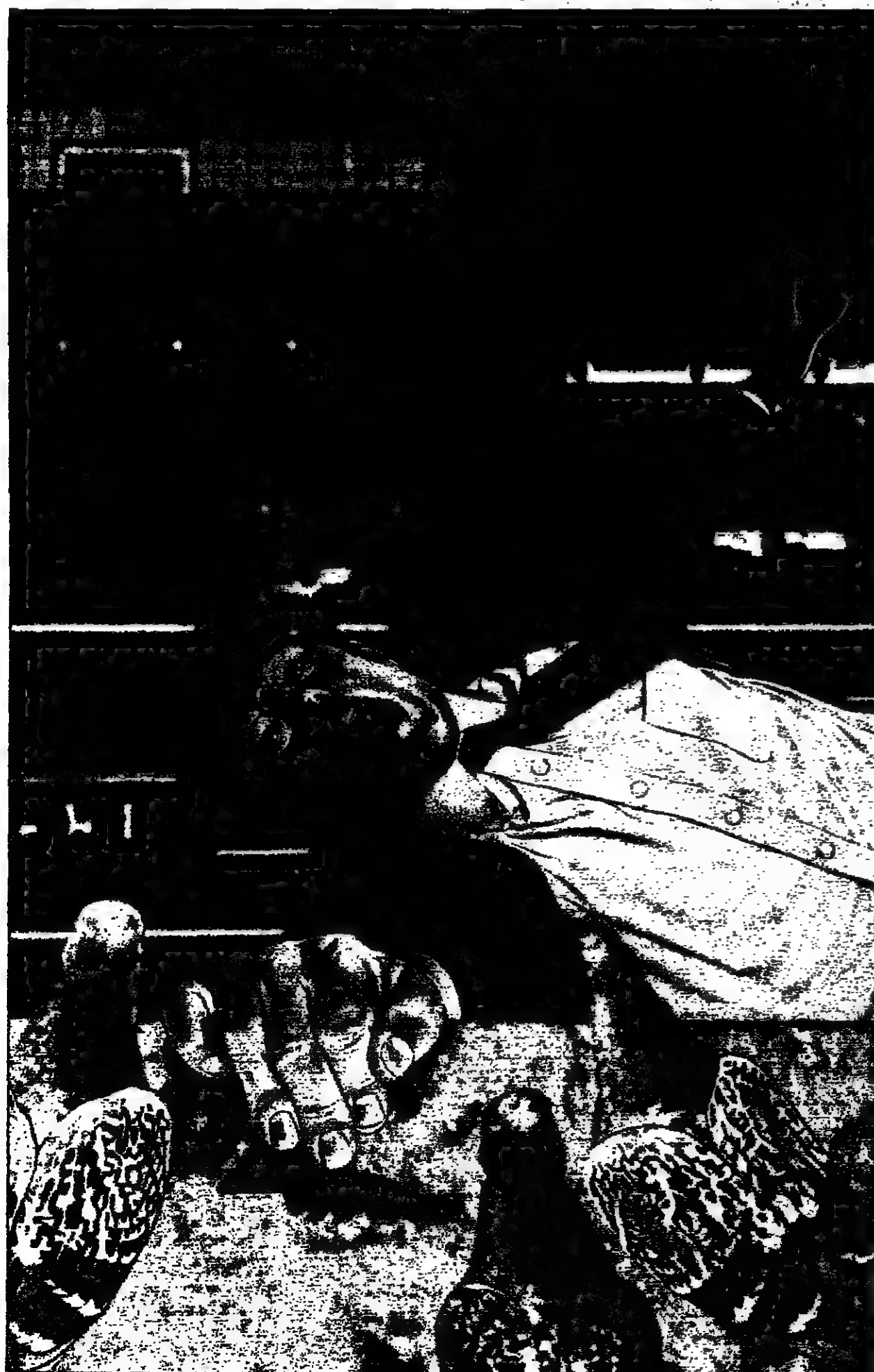
In its first three reports, the committee covered the Commons, public appointments, business jobs for ex-ministers, national and local quangos and local government. Several reforms have been introduced, removing many doubts about how people are appointed to quangos, while the Business Appointments Committee has sensitively applied the rules on jobs taken by ex-ministers. The original hysteria of some Tory MPs about the extinction of the professional classes from the Commons have not been remotely justified.

After the election, there were doubts about the committee's future role — would the new Government

regard itself as ethically so above board that it did not need such a watchdog? Fortunately, Tony Blair has accepted that the committee's central advisory role should continue, in addition to the new specific study on party funding and monitoring of earlier reports. The latter is critical, especially given the tendency for recommendations to be buried or sidelined. There is a good case for a short inquiry now into the new Ministerial Code and the role of special advisers. Lord Nolan last night suggested that the committee should be consulted by the Government on the ethical implications of proposed constitutional changes — Scottish and Welsh devolution, a Greater London Authority and reform of the House of Lords.

Sir Patrick Neill, the new chairman, should consider three changes. First, the membership of the committee needs refreshing and renewing. Some of the original members were venerable when appointed, three years ago, and should be replaced by some less establishment-minded figures. Secondly, the committee should initiate its own research, particularly on funding. Thirdly, it should be able to choose its own subjects for inquiry, obviously within its broad terms of reference. Sir Patrick has the great advantage of inheriting from Lord Nolan an important working addition to our constitutional checks and balances.

PETER RIDDELL



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BY BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

French drivers delivering shipments of Christmas toys to Britain wait for a ferry to Dover in the Belgian port of Ostend yesterday

Body and Mind, page 18
Letters, page 21

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

Mr Brown raised eyebrows when he cited the employment summit as the chief example of British leadership so far. The gathering is the product of a proposal by President Chirac.

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Christine Todd Whitman, the Governor of New Jersey, who hung on to office with a narrow margin, defeating Jim McGreevy, a Democrat

Republican night of glory

In local elections across the United States the message is clear: tax cuts win votes, reports Bronwen Maddox

PUNCHING both fists high in the air, surrounded by a cloud of coloured paper streamers, Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor of New York, swept to victory in a night of triumph for Republicans in local elections across the United States.

In Virginia, the new Governor, James Gilmore, led the first Republican sweep of the state's three highest offices, while in the closest race, Christine Todd Whitman, the Governor of New Jersey, hung on to power by a razor-thin margin.

The party's success in the highest-profile races among the hundreds of elections on Tuesday may have given it an important boost before next year's congressional elections, when Democrats will try to regain control of the House of Representatives.

After Mr Giuliani's victory

over Ruth Messinger, a Democrat, by 57 per cent of the vote to 41 per cent, he is now tipped as a contender for the White House in 2000. Speculation was fuelled by his comment yesterday that "I don't cut off options" when asked to pledge that he would serve his full four years as Mayor.

Mr Giuliani's victory makes him the first Republican since 1937 to be re-elected in the traditionally Democratic city. It was not just his combative, flamboyant personality that beat Ms Messinger, an earnest, hardworking politician who had slogged for years on committees to improve the city's schools and rubbish

disposal. Demonstrating the cross-party appeal that would be essential in any presidential bid, Mr Giuliani won the support of the city's Democratic voters by his claim to have driven down crime and turned around the city's finances.

In nearby New Jersey, Ms Whitman, a former Republican golden-girl once tipped for the vice-presidential nomination, held out against both the lacklustre Jim McGreevy and conservatives in her own party who see her as too liberal and too aristocratic.

However, the narrowness of her victory, 47 per cent against Mr McGreevy's 46 per cent, has been hailed by the increasingly powerful band of Southern

conservatives within the Republican Party. They argued yesterday that "moderate" candidates such as Ms Whitman, who backs abortion rights, are losing ground within the party and with voters.

In Virginia, voters sent Republicans with decisive majorities into the offices of Governor, Lieutenant-Governor (deputy governor) and Attorney-General. The state held good to its conservative tradition; as an old joke has it, it takes three Virginians to change a light bulb: one to screw it in and two to tell you how good the old bulb was. But the victories also sent a clear message that tax cuts win votes. The issue that

finally pulled the Republicans ahead was a proposal to cut the state's much hated annual tax on car owners.

That is a message Republican congressional leaders were delighted to hear. It appears to offer them a traditional, simple formula — tax cuts and family values — for fighting next year's congressional elections, when Democrats will try to overturn the Republican majority of 11 in the 435-member House.

Democrats pointed out yesterday that they did well in lower-profile mayoral races, winning in Boston, Minneapolis and Pittsburgh. They also argue that the triumph of Mr Giuliani and Ms Whitman shows the enduring appeal of relatively liberal social values.

Leading article, page 21



Rudolph Giuliani, showered with confetti, acknowledges his supporters' cheers

Voters reject gun control proposition

FROM TOM KHADDER
IN WASHINGTON

THE American gun lobby scored an important victory in Washington State yesterday after voters soundly defeated the most sweeping handgun safety measure yet placed on a United States ballot.

One of 43 propositions faced by voters across the country, the gun control initiative was swiftly rejected as were attempts in Oregon to reverse America's only euthanasia law and a campaign in

Houston, Texas, to end affirmative action programmes for minorities.

Oregon voters supported doctor-assisted suicide for the second time, easily defeating Measure 51, a proposal to repeal the "death with dignity" law passed three years ago that permits euthanasia for terminally ill patients.

In Houston, 54 per cent of voters opposed a proposition that would have steered 20 per cent of city contracts to firms run by minorities and women

despite a Supreme Court ruling earlier this week which let stand California's Proposition 209 banning affirmative action in government programmes.

Maine rejected limits on clear cutting, the practice of stripping land clean rather than cutting only mature trees, and a proposal that would have allowed the mentally ill to vote.

Cincinnati, Ohio, may now lose its elephants after citizens voted against a proposed \$52 million (£31 million) levy to build a new elephant house at the zoo.

NYPD blues for Russian

New York: Russia's UN Ambassador demanded an official apology here yesterday after his car keys were snatched from the ignition by a policeman (Tunku Varadarajan writes). An NYPD spokeswoman said the incident occurred after Sergei Lavrov's chauffeur made a "perilous" swerve in front of a police station.

Container stowaways suffocate

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

THREE stowaways trapped inside a sealed cargo container were found dead when their ship reached Palm Beach in Florida, two days after leaving the Dominican Republic. Seven others survived, fighting for air from a 6in hole cut in the container's wooden floor. Crew members heard frenetic pounding in the 65ft by

10ft container three hours before the ship docked, but were powerless to help until it was unloaded by cranes.

When rescuers broke in all but two of the survivors were unconscious. The dead men lay buried in a pile of clothes. Investigators said that they probably suffocated in temperatures well over 38C (100F).

The group, nine Dominicans and a Cuban, hid in the container on Sunday as it was

loaded on to the *Pampero* at Puerto Plata. They had some biscuits and water. Investigators found tools used to cut a hole in the floor, but the plan backfired because their container was stacked on top of another, blocking the vent.

This year 34 stowaways have been found at the port, and holes in containers suggest more have escaped undetected. Similar incidents have happened at Miami.

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Key aide dismissed by Yeltsin to halt feuding

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday dismissed one of the Kremlin's most powerful and controversial figures to try to end a long, damaging feud among his senior advisers.

In an abrupt move, the Kremlin issued a terse statement announcing that Boris Beresovsky, the deputy head of the Security Council and one of the richest men in Russia, had been "relieved of his duties" pending his appointment to another job.

The decision was reached on Tuesday after the Russian leader was persuaded to approve the sacking by Anatoli Chubais and Boris Nemtsov, Deputy Prime Ministers in charge of the Government's reform programme, who have been locked in a public dispute with Mr Beresovsky.

The dismissal could have serious political consequences for the Kremlin leader, who relied on Mr Beresovsky's financial muscle and control of the media to stage his presidential election victory last year. Mr Beresovsky, the archetypal "new Russian"

business tycoon with interests in the media, car industry, airlines and oil, was rewarded with a post at the Kremlin, where he was responsible for peace negotiations in Chechnya and related oil policy.

His relationship with the Government's leading young reformers broke down in the summer when the authorities awarded a lucrative privatisation bid for the state-owned telecommunications company to a rival banker.

Mr Nemtsov, the boyish reformer who has been the main target of Mr Beresovsky's media-led smear campaign, said that the decision to sack the billionaire was taken because he refused to suspend his business activities after accepting his official post.

Mr Beresovsky said that he had suspended his day-to-day involvement in business and that he was the victim of a campaign launched by the power-hungry young ministers.

The former mathematician's sudden removal was just the latest chapter in a series of controversies which has followed him since his Kremlin appointment a year ago.

Soon after he took up his post, it was revealed that he had applied for and received Israeli nationality. Subsequently it was rumoured that he had also acquired American citizenship. The most persistent allegations involved his alleged links with Russian organised crime. Then *Forbes* magazine, in an article entitled "The Godfather of the Kremlin", accused him of involvement in the murder of a prominent television personality.



Beresovsky: clashed with young reformers



President Milosevic at the funeral of Zoran Todorovic, a family confidant, who was murdered last month.

Gangland killers rule Belgrade

Six-figure price on Milosevic's head, but most murders cost no more than a secondhand car, Tom Walker writes

ANOTHER bloodied corpse lies blanketed in the street. This time the victim is a kickboxer, a member of the local Red Star club, with no known gangland associations. It is another unexplained death in a city where contract killing has spiralled out of control.

A former police chief has labelled Belgrade a "Colombia on the Danube", while another claimed there is a hit list of 53 of Serbia's elite. In a country where the local mafia now reigns supreme, no one is safe, not even the President of Federal Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic.

There is now almost one gangland murder a day in Belgrade, and among those shot over the past year have been three close associates of the Milosevic family. The latest victim was Zoran Todorovic, a close confidant

of the Federal President's wife, Mira. While the President has moved into Tito's former "white palace" for his own security, the country crippled by his reign is disintegrating. The dinar is in freefall against the mark, and an outer wall of international sanctions ensures Serbia's continued isolation.

Marko Nikolic, a former Belgrade police chief and one of the few brave enough to speak out against the gangsters, says the sanctions caused the rot in Serbia. For the Milosevic Government to survive, Mr Nikolic said, deals were made with the

underworld to ensure supplies of oil and other vital commodities. The mafia network spawned is now too powerful for the penniless state to break down.

"They have their relations in the Government, the police and the judiciary, they have their own infrastructure," he said. "You now have something of a brotherhood. If they think someone is a danger to their power — it doesn't matter who — they eliminate him."

One senior police officer believes Mr Milosevic is almost certain to meet a violent death: "When you are that

high there is nowhere to hide. In the Balkans it is never possible to end one epoch and begin another in peace. You have to have revenge before talking about the future."

A new Belgrade magazine, *Isis*, has caused a stir by obtaining a DM500,000 (£172,500) quote from the city's underworld for Mr Milosevic's head. In a series of interviews with alleged assassins, it found that the average price for a Belgrade contract killing was DM20,000, or "around the price of a second-hand car".

After 20 years in the force Mr Nikolic, a former Yugoslav karate champion, said he had known many of today's gangland bosses "since they were small fry". His personal key to survival is intelligence gathering. "Information is an advantage," he said, "but I'm fit and I shoot well."

£5,500 award spells hope for Nazi slaves

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A GERMAN court yesterday gave a glimmer of hope to thousands of Nazi Germany's slave labourers who have been waiting for more than 50 years for some form of compensation. Rywka Merin, an Ausch-

witz camp inmate who was forced to work in a nearby munitions factory, was awarded £5,500 by a German judge who dismissed the claims of 20 other former slave workers.

"The fight will go on," said Ulrich Evers, of the Cologne-based Documentation Centre for Victims of Nazi Persecu-

tion. "It is an unsatisfactory outcome for the women involved, but potentially the judgment opens the door for hundreds of thousands of slave labourers in Eastern Europe who have yet to see any money from the federal republic."

The judgment will probably not be the final word. The rejected slave labourers and the Government are expected to lodge appeals. Mrs Merin was singled out as being entitled to compensation because she lived in Poland after the war. The other claimants were scattered throughout the Western world — in Canada, the United States, Israel and Germany. As such, they were entitled to claim compensation after the war for damages or injury inflicted by the Nazis. Under a federal

compensation law, they all received some form of payment, but as Holocaust survivors rather than as slave labourers.

Those living in Eastern Europe, such as Mrs Merin, who moved to Israel in the anti-Semitic upheavals of 1968, were excluded under the terms of the law. Her settlement is regarded as compensation for loss of earnings. □ London: Holocaust survivors held a demonstration yesterday over the court's dismissal of the 20 former slave labourers' claims. Rudy Keirney, a former Auschwitz inmate, said: "The German Government is trying to delay compensation until it is too late and the survivors have died... [but] we are not going to give up."

WORLD IN BRIEF

Kohl hope dashed by jobless rise

Bonn: Two weeks before a European summit on combating unemployment, Germany yesterday reported another month of stubbornly high jobless figures (Roger Boyes writes). Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, had hoped that the number out of work would dip significantly in October — thus easing pressure on the Government to take more interventionist measures — but statistics showed that unemployment rose by 19,000 to a seasonally adjusted 4.51 million.

The unemployment rate of 11.8 per cent was announced the same time as disappointing production results for September. The indications are that the economy is not picking up as quickly as initial data suggested. The opposition Social Democrats said the figures showed Herr Kohl would be attending the Luxembourg summit as a lame duck.

Fugitive killed Briton

Albuquerque: Roger Dale Yeadon, 25, an escaped Alabama prisoner, has pleaded guilty to killing a British army major when he hijacked his car in New Mexico. The convicted burglar could face life imprisonment for his part in the death of David Nichols, whose body was found in desert south of Villanueva, near Las Vegas, in September 1996. (AP)

Election gains for Hussein

Pro-government tribal candidates loyal to King Hussein, right, strengthened their grip on Jordan's parliament after final results in an election overshadowed by an Islamist opposition boycott were published yesterday (Christopher Walker writes). Tribal chiefs won 68 seats in the 80-member lower house. Independent candidates won only 12 seats and not one of the 17 women candidates was elected.



Bardot 'kiss-and-tell' win

Paris: A French court ordered Brigitte Bardot's former husband and his publisher to pay her Fr50,000 (£5,150) in damages for invading her privacy in a "kiss-and-tell" book. But the court rejected her request to seize copies of Jacques Chirac's *My Answer to 88*, published by Michel Lalon, telling of their three-year marriage that ended in divorce in 1962. (AP)

Gorbachev in hospital



Berne: The former Soviet President, Mikhail Gorbachev, left, is undergoing medical checks in a Swiss hospital, but is not believed to be seriously ill. Mr Gorbachev, 66, was admitted to hospital here after a routine test showed irregularities, said Roland Wiederkehr of the Swiss Green Cross, an environmental organisation of which Mr Gorbachev, who is expected to leave hospital today, is international president. (AP)

House arrest for Mr Big

Wellington: William Dickie, 43, who weighs 670lb — more than 47 stone — has been sentenced to house arrest in the South Island town of Ashburton on fraud and theft charges because he is too big for prison facilities. Detective Kate Wilson said that many people were sorry for Dickie, but "he's just a thief who happens to be fat". (Reuters)

Wife-beater brought to book

Tehran: A would-be Iranian author told a court he beat his wife and locked her up for long hours to get inspiration for his first book. The man, a bookshop assistant who faces prosecution over the attacks, spoke against his wife's divorce petition and said he had wanted to write a "book on life's sweet and bitter sides", the *Iran* daily said. (Reuters)

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Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on hepatitis A, men's health problems, breast cancer and sleep patterns

Have a jab to avoid jaundice

It is not only the Conservative Party that is having a hard time because of Brussels. David Colvin, the British ambassador to Belgium, and his wife, Caroline, have been victims of a robbery, while Sir Stephen Wall, the permanent representative to the European Union, his wife, Catharine, his cook and at least one other staff member have contracted hepatitis A, known somewhat imprecisely as infectious jaundice or, more formally, as infective hepatitis.

Although Lady Wall was originally told that she had caught hepatitis from trailing her hand in the virus-laden waters of Chesapeake Bay, New England, and that she had then infected her husband, the real cause emerged when they returned from holiday and discovered that their Belgian cook had come down with the disease just after they

had left for the United States. Hepatitis A is usually transmitted by urine or faeces, but can also be spread by blood and other body fluids — the ambassador's cook had cut her finger badly in July.

Once the patient has developed jaundice and other specific symptoms, the disease is becoming less infectious. The patient ceases to be infectious within a few days of developing symptoms and never becomes a carrier. Hepatitis A is nearly always spread through contaminated food or water, and food-borne epidemics are comparatively common.

It is likely that the Brussels outbreak spread from the cook to Catharine Wall and from her to her husband. The incubation period is variable — from about a fortnight to as much as six weeks. The other member of the staff who caught it probably did so from an (as yet) unidentified source,

who never showed the classic symptoms. Even if they did notice, they probably thought they had nothing more than a case of flu or a "tummy upset". The majority of patients with hepatitis A, although infectious, do not become jaundiced.

Sir Stephen has drawn attention to the incidence of hepatitis A in the Second World War in the Far East. Although all ranks caught the disease, it was more common among officers who dined together and whose mess plates and cutlery were washed up communally than it was with the other ranks, who tended to cook their own food and had their own mess tins.

Sir Stephen has travelled around the world in the diplomatic service and has never caught hepatitis — even in such places as Ethiopia — and is therefore surprised that he has fallen prey to it in the heart of Europe.

The Belgian authorities have told him that the disease is on the increase in their country, as it is elsewhere in Europe, and that the Belgian Government is considering mass vaccination.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is straightforward and easy. Everyone who travels, particularly those going to exotic spots, or who dines in a lot of restaurants in this country should be inoculated. One vaccination, Twinrix, has proved to be effective against both hepatitis A and B.

Unlike the former — which, while causing victims to feel ill for a week or two and tired for some months, ends with the patient making a full recovery — the latter, transmitted by blood and other body fluids, is a potential killer. Research shows that hepatitis B is six times more prevalent in Britain than previous statistics suggested, and that the carrier rate is twice as high as was previously thought.

Last week, for instance, it was reported that an elderly man had died after having a hip operation in Bangor. It

was later discovered that the surgeon who had performed the operation was a carrier of hepatitis B.

Those who want to avoid catching hepatitis B should not become too intimate with people from central Middlesex, Preston or Rhyl, and Gloucester and Ashford, in Kent, are not much better. It would be much safer to choose a close companion from Norwich or Exeter, where the incidence of the disease is low. In central Middlesex one in ten adults has been infected with hepatitis B, including one



Stephen Wall: hit by hepatitis

In six females aged between 35 and 44 and one in seven of males of a similar age. Approximately one in 25 males has been affected by hepatitis B in Gloucester, Rhyl or Ashford, and an appreciable proportion will continue to be infectious, and carriers.

The emergence of the true numbers of patients in Britain who have had hepatitis B adds weight to the argument that aims to persuade Britain to adopt the World Health Organisation's recommendation to institute widespread vaccination. In Europe only Britain, Ireland and Scandinavia have yet to show enthusiasm for this scheme.

Meanwhile, those who travel risk contracting hepatitis A, and possibly hepatitis B, and are therefore advised to seek dual protection.

Well-earned rest for truckers

THERE may be one small benefit to come out of the French truck drivers' blockade. The drivers, whether trapped in Kent or on the road in France, will have a chance to catch up on their sleep.

A recent study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and reviewed in *Monitor* magazine shows that the average truck driver needs 7.1 hours sleep a night but that when working for 24 hours, they achieve only 4.78 hours; when working day shifts they usually get 5.38 hours of sleep. Sleep deprivation is cumulative.

Forty per cent of the drivers supplemented their main sleep with additional naps, averaging 27 minutes a day.

The truck drivers who took part in the research were watched in their cabins with videos, and their brainwaves were recorded with an electroencephalogram.

In the five days during which drivers were being monitored, two fell asleep at the wheel and 56 per cent had at least one period of extreme drowsiness.

Drivers were particularly vulnerable to drowsiness at the wheel between late night and early morning, and again in the afternoon between 2pm and 4pm.

There is increasing evidence that drowsiness when driving is a more frequent cause of road accidents than drunk driving.

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Feeling poorly: the male attitude to health is changing — a survey shows that they are now just as likely to tackle problems as women

Men do worry about illness

GALLUP, the market researchers, have in conjunction with *Men's Health Matters* been sampling the adult male population of Great Britain to analyse their approach to health.

The interviewed sample was balanced for sex, age, class and such materialistic markers as car and home ownership. An equal number of women who had a regular partner or spouse were also questioned so that male and female attitudes could be compared.

Contrary to popular belief, men and women feel much the same about health and are equally concerned about it. It is no longer true that men are less conscientious about visiting their doctors, or seeking other medical advice.

Traditionally men have been reluctant to believe that they are ill because it affected their image of masculinity and vulnerability, and they therefore tended to cover up ill health until the symptoms made this impossible.

The Gallup poll shows that men's attitudes are changing. Men are now more likely to tackle their health problems adequately than they were in the past.

Fifty-two per cent will even visit their GP within one week of any worry arising. Seventy-one per cent of men, from right across the social board, said that they would like to see as much information in the press about men's health as there now is about women's, and 66 per cent of men would like a confidential health helpline.

● *Men's Health Matters* for confidential advice, ring 0181-995 4448.

Screening vital for the older woman

WOMEN should not allow themselves to be discouraged from attending breast screening clinics because of the inability of a Devon hospital to achieve the results expected of it. Breast screening is a developing skill and the standard of accuracy now attained will surprise those who were involved with it in its early days.

Accuracy of diagnosis has always been dependent on the amount of experience and skill of the radiologist, together with the ability of the radiographers and the degree to which they have been taught to take good pictures. The diagnosis is much easier when there is a comparison with an earlier film. Women should, therefore, endeavour to be screened regularly.

There is considerable evidence that the present three-year gap between mammographies in the NHS screening programme is too long and allows detectable tumours to arise in the

interval. There is also strong evidence that routine screening for breast cancer should be extended on the NHS to those over 65. Breast cancer is more common in the over-65s, and screening picks up well over twice as many tumours per thousand women examined in this age group than it does in those who are younger.

A report in a recent *Pulse* magazine shows that half of all breast cancers occur in the over-65s, and these account for 60 per cent of breast cancer deaths. All the evidence is that the survival time is dependent on the stage of the breast cancer at diagnosis, its pathology and treatment and not on the age of the patient.

Although older women are more likely to die of other causes while being treated for breast cancer, there is a Swedish study, which formed the basis of our own NHS screening programme, which showed that breast screening reduced mortality from malignant disease by 25-

30 per cent in the under-65s, but by more than 40 per cent in the over-65s. Not surprisingly, as they have received no encouragement, few women over 65 are screened by the NHS, but in places where it is encouraged, such as Guernsey, the uptake is much greater than among younger women. In Sweden more than 80 per cent of women between 65 and 74 are screened regularly.

THE lack of attention to NHS breast screening in older women has persuaded many of them that the risk of breast cancer diminishes with age. Nothing could be further from the truth. The older a woman is, the greater the hazard, and she badly needs the care which she can now get only if she asks for it.

● *Age Concern* 0181-699 8900, *Breast Cancer Care* (0500 245345) has just launched a leaflet, *Breast Cancer and the Older Woman: Exploding the Myths*. Copies are available from either organisation.

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HALIBORANGE

Why Enya won't go with the flow

The Irish singer sells millions of records, but has never performed in public. Interview by Noreen Taylor

If Enya passed you in the street, it is doubtful you would recognise her. Paparazzi do not stalk her. The tabloids ignore her. She has never performed in public, yet Enya is one of the biggest selling female stars of the Nineties, ranking alongside Madonna, Tina Turner and Whitney Houston.

Her haunting music — celestial choruses awash in swirling waves of Celtic mist — has been mocked by some critics as pretentious: global muzak with soul. But legions of fans across the world compare her work to a spiritual experience.

With two Grammy awards, a number one single, *Orinoco Flow*, and four albums having sold more than 33 million, no wonder her record company publicists describe her as one of the most successful female recording artists of all time.

Enya comes into the room shyly, quietly, a small woman of dark, delicate looks with a skin so white it's almost luminous, and offers her hand. No echoes of Madonna or Whitney-style flamboyance here. She is reassured to discover that we're from the same county in Ireland, Donegal. "Oh well, then," she laughs, and the alert straight-backed pose visibly relaxes.

"You know what a pull that place has on all of us. Flying back home from Dublin, over the mountains before the plane comes down, I realise that the landscape is always with me, in my head, in my music. I don't get home as often I'd like, only one day this year, but the beauty is very powerful. I don't think it ever leaves you. I go home every Christmas to sing in my mother's choir, catch up on all the gossip."

Is there a distance between her and the people back at home? "I can't say I'm aware of any awkwardness. Perhaps, at one time, I'd worry about name dropping. You know, mentioning places I'd been, people I'd met, but then I'd discover that they were as interested in my life as I was in theirs."

Enya was born in 1961, in Gweedore, part of Donegal's Gaelic-speaking area, to parents whose backgrounds were steeped in music. Her father, Leo Bharrachain, is a former band leader who now runs Leo's Tavern, a major Irish music venue, while her mother Maire, once the band vocalist, teaches music. It was from Leo's Tavern that the celebrated family group, Clannad, was formed.

Two of my brothers, Pól and

Claran, my sister Maire and two uncles were in the band. When I left school, where I'd been studying piano and classical music, I joined in with my keyboard, and did background vocals for two years."

There she could have remained, part of a successful Irish traditional music unit, except for the intervention of two people. Nicky Ryan, then Clannad's manager and his wife Roma, sensed a spark of that indefinable, almost mystical ingredient, that marked Enya out.

She finds it very difficult to talk about her abilities. Modesty plays a part, although it's impossible not to feel that all her responses, both verbal and physical, indicate a personality wrapped in layers of secrets.

"I come from a family of four brothers and four sisters, a large, protective group where a quiet moment would be very rare, and I suppose very early on I realised that I needed my own space from the chaos and the continual bustle. When I went to boarding school I found independence and privacy. I held on to that independence, musically, too. I suppose, my musical grounding came from the classics, although influences like church music, Irish reels and fiddle are in there, too. At home, I remember sitting for hours at the piano, experimenting with classical pieces I'd learnt."

"I talked about music to Nicky, whose influences came from people like the Beatles and the Beach Boys and who had these ideas about layering vocals, about painting audio landscapes with music."

Roma, who knew about Irish mythology, told stories, wrote poetry and had this special feeling for lyrics. Then, in what seemed like a very natural sort of development, I moved in with them, lived in their house in Dublin where they had built a small studio, and went back to studying piano again. It was wonderful having those two people who believed in me and encouraged me to take risks."

The Ryans' gamble paid off. They no longer work in a tiny studio tucked on to the back of their house, but in a state-of-the-art recording laboratory overlooking the Wicklow mountains. The Ryans and Enya enjoy a remarkable relationship.

"Oh yes, when I talk about the music I always refer to 'we'. I write the melody, play piano, keyboards, sing the vocals. Roma writes the lyrics. Nicky arranges, creates the layers of overtracking. I don't have to explain anything to them. They feel the music. It's so intuitive, as though Roma knows what I'm feeling when she hears a melody."

Recalling the start of their success story, she says: "It was through Roma that we got to do the music for David Putnam's film *The Frog Prince* and then the soundtrack for the BBC series *The Celts*."

"The three of us can be locked up in the studio five days a week for up to two years doing an album. I begin a melody, then wait, see where it's going to take me. The music can't be rushed. I'm a perfectionist. Without Nicky I'd be there for ever. So I've learnt now to stop going over and over compositions, and when he says, it's finished, let it go. I trust him."

For a long time afterwards, I close the door on the finished work, I won't listen to it. Just can't. Too anxious. I sit back and think, who's going to listen to this? Is there an audience? Every time I start a new album, it's like the first time. The success of the other albums doesn't count, doesn't make it any easier, somehow it's as if it's too much to live up to. People assume success makes you confident. It doesn't. It creates new demands. I've made a lot of sacrifices for my work."

"Like love, a husband, children? She responds with a shy smile, and when pressed admits: "I've always tried to make it clear that my work comes first, that I need my space. Finding a man who can adapt to

me? I haven't met one. Describe me as a woman who is very single. I like living alone, and relationships have always clashed with my lifestyle. It's just too difficult."

I suggest that like many successful women of her generation, she can no longer widen the frame to include a partner, and that may be she fears the lack of control inherent within marriage and motherhood? Then again, perhaps she's never been swept off her feet?

"Perhaps," she says with a teasing smile. "There could be an element of fear, knowing that no one has yet understood my strong will, my need. You see, music is something I've got to do. The idea of coming back home and having to talk to someone after hours in the studio when I'm spent, exhausted, I can't imagine being able to do that, being able to cut myself in two — switching from one role to another. As for children, I've enough nieces and nephews to fill that gap."

There are other rewards. Enya's new home is Killiney Castle, a 19th-century cliff-top fortress looking out over Dublin Bay. "I've always loved castles, thought them magical places, and now I have one of my own. The rooms are not enormous, which is lovely because it's quite homely for a castle. It was love at first sight. The instant I walked through the door, I went wow! This is it!"

The splendid, grey-stoned house, in its fairytale setting, seems an appropriate backdrop for someone described as a recluse, rather solitary figure. "Well, I suppose people use those terms because I don't tour and the only time the public sees me is when I'm doing signings in record shops. There has never been time to tour. That's the simple truth, although Nicky is thinking we might arrange a concert in one of Dublin's cathedrals soon."

"I'm not part of the party circuit. The studio drains all my energy and imagination, and anyway, by temperament I'm not suited to crowds and glitz. Lately I've been more relaxed, gone out to dinner parties, the theatre, so I'm getting better, loosening up. I know music has taken up my life, but that's been my choice."

● *Paint The Sky With Stars*, an album of Enya's classic songs, including two new compositions, is released this week by WEA Records



"People assume success makes you confident. It doesn't. It creates new demands. I've made a lot of sacrifices"

'I am not suited to crowds and glitz'

older woman

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Drugs — an everyday story

Bridget Harrison on a report that does away with stereotypes

tion or so "deviants" who use drugs every weekend, just as "normal" people use alcohol or cigarettes, is access to information on the substances

tions such as these that drug users want the answers to. Mr Hellowell's response to the Demos report is to welcome "further insight" into drug misuse. If he wishes to understand the problem of drugs, the first step is for him to understand the people who take them.

AT LAST someone is talking sense about the way in which recreational drugs are used in Britain. A study by the Independent think-tank Demos — whose director, Geoff Mulgan, advises Tony Blair — says that young people who use such drugs are far removed from the stereotypical image of a generation of deviants and junkies.

This may cause embarrassment to the Government and its newly appointed drugs czar, Keith Hellowell, but will come as no surprise to many. Slogans such as "War on Drugs" and "Just Say No", have become almost a joke in a culture in which drug references are so obvious that they are hardly noticed.

For most who go to bars, night clubs, festivals or parties, contact with drugs such as ecstasy, cocaine, speed and cannabis is as normal as contact with the opposite sex. This is not to say that anyone who sets foot in a bar will automatically swallow a pill. With acceptance comes choice — much like deciding what to wear for an evening, or whether to drink vodka or orange juice.

This summer, I drove to a wedding with two lawyers and a film director — all in their twenties, with successful careers. They talked about presents for the bride and groom and whether anyone might turn up with some Es. Someone did, and several of the wedding party danced more than everyone else and were awake to see the dawn. The rest of us left them to it.

I have attended dinner parties when cocaine has been brought instead of a good bottle of wine. The idea that the person bringing it was a deviant, a criminal or likely to ruin his or her life simply did not arise.

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Honourable friends and federalists

Norman Lamont says Ken Clarke despises Parliament — in private

Many years ago when Ken Clarke and I were young front-benchers in Mrs Thatcher's team, he and I had an argument about Europe. Although my scepticism was not as developed as it is today, my views were definitely less Europhile than Ken's. Even then I was worried about the direction in which Europe was going. Ken disagreed. I remember his words to this day: "The sooner the House of Commons becomes a county council the better." I remember those words because they did somewhat shock me. I have often reflected on them, but never referred to them until now.

I have known Ken Clarke for more than 30 years, since we were both student politicians together at Cambridge. I have always thought of him as a European federalist. He denies this. On one occasion when he was Chancellor he declared, in the House of Commons, there were no federalists at all in the Conservative Party. I was puzzled by this. I knew many people who I thought would be quite happy to be described as federalists. If there were no federalists in the Conservative Party, why was there such an outcry when Michael Portillo at the time of Emma Nicholson's defection suggested that all federalists should leave the Conservative Party?

Does all this matter? Isn't this semantics? When Ken Clarke says he is not in favour of a federal Europe, perhaps he means he is in favour of unification, but not along explicitly federal lines. What would that be? A unitary centralised Europe? That would be even more alarming than a federalised Europe.

Michael Heseltine is a man I greatly like, although I disagree with his views. He also says he is not a federalist, although he has been franker than most. When he was previously on the backbenches and wrote a book (*The Challenge of Europe: Can Britain Win?*), he said: "We have federalism by stealth, whether because national electorates cannot be told the truth, or are not trusted to understand it, or because their elected leaders have failed to comprehend what they have assented to."

Ken Clarke and Michael Heseltine are rightly described as big beasts. I vividly recall sitting with them on Black Wednesday. I wanted to get the pound out of the ERM. So did the Bank of England. But for Michael and Ken, Europe came first. They insisted interest rates were increased to 15 per cent, when all the time speculators were coming to the Bank of England to dump pounds. Like the Bourbons, they have learnt nothing from history. In their world, you remove the possibility of a run on the pound by abolishing the pound.

They were prepared then to pay a very high price to remain within the ERM. Today they seem equally determined that the Conservative Party should pay a very high price if it is not prepared to leave open the option of joining the single currency.

I do not dispute their right to disagree with party policy, even though they used their

position to discourage dissent. Today we have a new, democratically elected leader of the party. He has made it clear that one of his objections to the single currency is the constitutional consequences. In these circumstances we are entitled to ask them to be clear about the constitutional consequences of the single currency.

Karl Issing, the Chief Economist of the Bundesbank, has said that there is no example in history of a single state. Hans Tiemeyer, head of the Bundesbank, has on several occasions made clear that he believes that the single currency will very much diminish the freedom of individual governments to set their own taxes. When I once put this to Kenneth Clarke in a debate in the House of Commons he remarked that the Bundesbank did not speak for Chancellor Kohl. I could have quoted to him what Herr Kohl said in a newspaper interview in September 1995: "We want the political unification of Europe. If there is no monetary union there cannot be political union and vice versa."

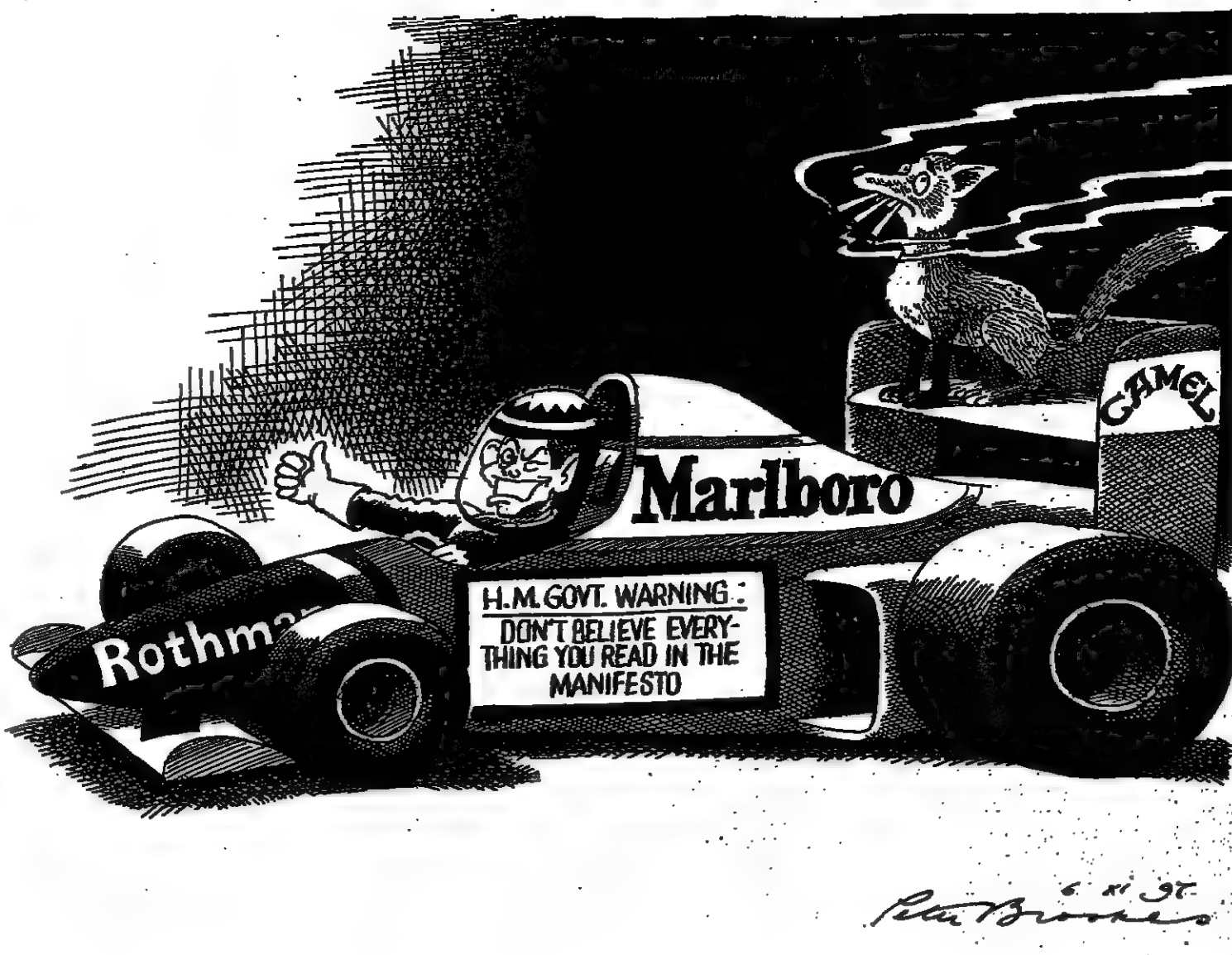
I have debated the issue of the single currency many times with politicians, and in the last few weeks with both Helmut Schmidt and Giscard d'Estaing, the founding fathers of monetary union. What always strikes me is how much more open European politicians are in admitting in public that economic and monetary union will lead to political unification. Last week I heard Giscard d'Estaing say in New York that the single currency would require a common tax system.

Michael Heseltine simply refers to alleged business fears, says a single currency is going to happen, and that Britain will be part of it. The logic of his position is, if the Europeans want an overt political union, Britain must join.

Ken Clarke denies that a single currency will lead to a common European tax system. Even if theoretically possible, it is not what Continental politicians believe or want. Even before the single currency has been created, the European Commission never stops issuing plans for tax harmonisation. Controls on borrowing and spending will drive them further in this direction. A common tax system will then require an economic government, as French politicians repeatedly point out. That was why Norman Tebbit said Britain in a monetary union would end up as a "rate-capped local authority" — a view wholly consistent with Ken Clarke's "county council".

Today Ken Clarke and Michael Heseltine launch their Mainstream Organisation. Let's have an open and honest debate about this. It is their duty as elected Members of Parliament to tell us openly what the political consequences of monetary union are. If they are not Euro-federalists, they should state exactly where they would set the limits to Britain's involvement in the process of European integration.

The author was Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1990-93.



Sweet and sour portions

The economy is riding high now — but Blair must beware of a dangerous downturn by the next election

In the United States there is a folk-saying that voters get a slump when they elect Republican Presidents and a war when they elect the Democrats. There is some truth in this. The most difficult economic shocks, the panic of 1907, the slump of the early 1930s, and the inflation of the early 1970s did, indeed, occur under Republican Presidents; the four great wars the United States has fought in the 20th century, the two world wars, Korea and Vietnam, all began when Democrats were in the White House.

There is no similar folk-saying about wars in British politics; the Liberals were in power when war broke out in 1914, and the Conservatives in 1939. But there is a similar observation about the Labour Party and the economy. All five of the earlier Labour administrations ended with unemployment higher than it was when they started. The Labour Party wins elections at times of comparative prosperity, and then has to deal with the consequence of the economy boiling over. This is not a perfectly constant pattern. It fits the 1929 and 1964 victories quite well, but 1924 was too short to count; 1945 saw the end of wartime full employment, though employment remained high until 1951; while in 1974 the economy had already boiled over after the Heath-Barber boom.

Nevertheless, as Tony Blair is well aware, the Labour Party has never achieved two full terms in office, and has repeatedly become unpopular because of cyclical pressures on the economy. Perhaps the Government's biggest fear is that this will happen again, and that it will be struggling with the downturn of the economic cycle at the time it has to win re-election in 2001 or 2002. Such a change could also affect voters' attitudes to the referendum on the single currency, which Gordon Brown has promised for early in the next Parliament. If the Conservatives win the next election, which might happen as a result of an economic downturn, there would be no entry to the single currency, and therefore no referendum. If Labour still wins but economic conditions are bad, that could nudge people into wanting to join, or more likely, could fatally weaken the authority of the Government's support for a single-currency proposal.

Professor Tim Congdon has made a long-term forecast based on a new theory of the nature of the business cycle. He believes that increases in

the growth of the money supply push actual output above the trend line of output growth. This starts the familiar cycle of boom and slump around a long-term trend line which one sees in most economic activities. At present the money supply is running at around 10 per cent growth, which is too high to be compatible with stable prices.

Professor Congdon describes four stages of this cycle. In the first phase, which the British economy experienced in the period 1992 to 1994, output is below the trend level, inflation is falling, and a more expansionist monetary and budget policy is put in place. In phase two, output is rising from below to above the trend line; the so-called "output gap" is eliminated, and inflation starts to rise, though it rises only slowly so long as any output gap remains. In phase three, the acceleration of inflation reaches an unacceptable rate and there is a slowing of growth as output outstrips capacity. The Government will then be trying to cut back growth with higher interest rates and higher taxes.

In phase four, the recession comes, output declines back below the trend line, and inflation falls. There may be an actual fall in output, while asset prices will decline. Professor Congdon publishes a graph which shows this sequence of events repeating itself from 1965 to the present day. In 1997, the British economy is still in the relatively comfortable second phase, with output having reached the trend line, but not yet significantly broken through it, and with somewhat higher interest rates.

So far, this is a reasonably familiar cyclical theory, though with special attention to fluctuations around the long-term trend of output. The most significant observation is that inflation can be explained better by the level of the output gap than by the changes in output. Provided it is below the trend line, the economy can expand quite fast without inflation.

Once it is above the trend line, inflation rises, even if it is no longer expanding rapidly.

This cycle produces two exceptional economic conditions, which Professor Congdon calls the "sweet spot" and the "sour spot". In the sweet spot, the economy is expanding quite rapidly, but is still at or below the trend line. There is little inflationary pressure, despite above average growth. In the sour spot, output is above the trend line, but has to be brought back below it. Then there is low growth, or none at all, and inflationary pressure remains quite high. In recent history, Nigel Lawson's boom created a sweet spot in 1987-88; that was followed by a very sour spot in 1990-92; the next sour spot is expected by Professor Congdon to occur in 1999-2000, though he observes that the timing of the different phases does vary.

Over the last year output growth has undoubtedly been above its trend rate. If above — trend growth continues, the positive output gap may reach over 1 per cent of GDP and could move up to the 2 per cent or more figures seen as some previous cyclical peaks. If so, quite a nasty sour spot might follow, say in 1999 or 2000, with inflation returning to over 4 per cent and possibly to 5 per cent. A period of beneath-trend growth would be necessary to bring inflation back down to the 2.5 per cent official target. When one reads this, one should remember that Professor Congdon, who was one of the economic advisers to the last Government, has an exceptionally good record as a forecaster.

In 1992, the Conservatives under John Major were able to win an unexpected election victory despite the sour spot. Does that mean that elections are no longer decided by the business cycle?

Can Labour still win comfortably even if there is a sour spot in the year 2000? The historic association between Labour coming in on a boom and going out in a recession suggests not.

Perhaps people vote Labour when they feel economically confident, but have a long term doubt whether Labour knows how to maintain prosperity. A sour spot at the time of the next election could revive old suspicions, which go back to the 1930s or beyond. Labour cannot afford a repetition of having come in on a sweet spot and gone out on a sour one.

The Congdon analysis shows that Brown — or Blair — was right to reject entry to the single currency in 1999. It could have produced the same result as Nigel Lawson's shadowing of the mark in the 1980s — lower interest rates and further expansion of an economy already expanding too fast. If the sour spot in 1999-2000 is not to be too damaging, the next two years of expansion need to be kept under control. Obviously a reduction of interest rates to EU levels would be dangerous.

William Rees-Mogg

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Yet the British and European business cycles are unlikely to be synchronised even by 2001 or 2002. By then British output may be falling below trend. If so, it will be right to have a somewhat more expansionist policy. But the European cycle is currently lagging about three or four years behind ours; the European core countries are now at the stage Britain was in during the period 1993-94, a stage of early recovery. By 2002, the interest rates appropriate to Britain, in what could then be the later part of a cyclical recession, might be quite inappropriate to a European economy in the later stages of a boom. I do not think anyone knows how to realign business cycles so that different economies will benefit from the same level of interest rates.

The warning is an important one. The Labour Party is still riding high in the polls; most people expect Labour to win the next election quite easily; many people expect that to create a favourable momentum for the single currency referendum. If Tim Congdon is right — and he often is — the economic climate in four years' time could be much less favourable than it is now. That would inevitably change the political climate as well.

Professor Congdon's paper, "Inflation is not dead", appears in November's *Lombard Street Review* Monthly Economic Review.

Are the Scots on the take?

Magnus Linklater calls for more clarity over subsidies

As you drive north from Edinburgh up the M90, over the Forth Road Bridge, you come across an altered landscape. New hills have been contoured, the motorway itself has been rebuilt, an industrial complex lies, prettily concealed, below the horizon. Above it, stark against the sky, huge letters proclaim: Hyundai Semi-Conductors. It is the biggest plant of its kind in Europe. Drive the other way, towards Glasgow, and the same thing happens. Here the factory sprawl is even larger — almost a new town it seems — served by a complex of slip-roads: this is Chungwa Picture Tubes from Korea.

These are just the latest and most obvious signs of a remarkable success story, one that has brought Scotland — and Wales — the lion's share of some colossal investment from the Far East and America. In Scotland alone it amounts to some £6 billion in five years, bringing 60,000 jobs.

At last, you might think, genuine proof that we have acquired that most un-British of qualities, the ability to market ourselves abroad. That assumption, however, has been rudely challenged. Sir George Russell, the blunt-speaking industrialist who is among other things Chairman of Camelot and the Independent Television Commission, accuses Scotland and Wales, in effect, of cheating. Over the years, he claims, they have used the generous government subsidies they have received as poorer regions of the UK to lure foreign companies away from places such as the North East. His particular resentment is reserved for the so-called Barnett formula which, he claims, gives Scotland a higher proportion of public spending than English regions; despite its recent growth in prosperity, Scotland, he says, "may be... now actually wealthier than any English region apart from the South East". But it is still using the extra subsidy it receives under the Barnett formula to "guzzling" less well-heeled parts of the country. "The Barnett formula," he concludes, "is no longer necessary or just."

Sir George's timing was immaculate. Tony Blair, himself a northern MP, has asked for a solution to what he sees as the problem of "bidding wars" between the regions. Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, wants to centralise the lobbying for inward investment. Even Lord Barnett himself — formerly Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury — who introduced the formula in 1978, reckons the time has come to reassess the whole procedure.

He is probably right. But not necessarily for the right reasons. The Barnett formula has nothing to do with subsidising foreign investors, a process tightly controlled by the Regional Selective Assistance system which applies throughout the UK. Nor does it in itself give the Scots a higher proportion of public spending. That advantage was won long before it came into existence by a succession of able-thumping Scottish Secretaries, the most notable of whom was Willie Ross, who, in the 1960s and 1970s, insisted that Scotland, deprived of its heavy industries, needed extra help. He was probably right. His successors have done the same, with such Tories as George Younger being the most successful.

It does, however, allow the Scottish Secretary a large degree of freedom of choice in allocating his budget; hence Sir George Russell's frustration and the hostility of successive Treasury ministers. It is also surprisingly difficult to define, like the Schleswig Holstein Question, of which Lord Palmerston said that only three people understood it — one of whom was dead, one mad, and the third — himself — who had forgotten.

What Barnett did in 1978 was apply a formula which would quantify the extra spending rather than having it renegotiated every time. He fixed it on an estimate of Scotland's population in 1977. Since then, it has changed slightly as the population has shrunk. Michael Portillo was the last to recalculate it. It does not, however, cover all public expenditure in Scotland, only the 60 per cent or so that the Scottish Office controls. It applies only to changes in spending on programmes like education, health, housing and roads. And although it does give Scots a higher proportion per head of spending, possibly as much as 25 per cent, that was always intended to converge in time.

The convergence has, admittedly, taken far longer than anyone calculated. Hence the need for a reassessment. We need to know whether Scotland, with its remote areas, its expensive rural road system and its pockets of high unemployment, still qualifies for extra support. That calculation has to take in all the UK regions. What, for instance, about the deprived South West?

What it should not do is become part of a campaign against Scottish or Welsh autonomy — the "beginnings of the English backlash" as it has been described. The first thing to do is analyse the figures, and see if they are still fair. Then, and only then, begin to readjust them. Before attacking something it is always as well to understand what on earth it is that you are attacking.



Helena: costume drama

has developed varicose veins. The problem set in 12 years ago while filming *A Room with a View*. "I had to have my varicose veins out at 19," she tells me. "I think the corsets accelerated the process. I now know I don't have to be in every period film." Thank God.

JASPER GERARD

So vein

CAVORTING in corsets on Merchant Ivory films has done little to enhance the physique of the actress Helena Bonham Carter: she

Slow coach

THE LAST, lonely relic of empire, where Napoleon sulked out his final days, is to be treated to its first ministerial visit in 300 years. George Foulkes, International Development Minister, will appease restless natives in St Helena when he swings by shortly. The remote British dependency lies in squalid South Atlantic seas, 5,000 miles south of Cornwall. Its 6,000 residents are less used to garlanded visitors than to gloomy poverty and isolation — relieved only, Foulkes should be warned, by Lion Beer. Explorer's note: It takes ten days by boat and plane.

The inhabitants — called "Saints" — have been stripped of British citizenship. Lord Iveagh has introduced a Bill to reverse this and locals are making a fuss.

So Foulkes, who once managed eight fact-finding trips in a year, earning him the title of Honourable Member for Flying Visits, has instructed officials to find him the quickest way to get there. With no airstrip on St Helena, he plans to fly to Cape Town and then make the four-day trip by sea to become the first such emissary since the East India Company claimed the island in 1659.

Once at the Governor's mansion, the congenial Foulkes should avoid the fate of Napoleon — reputedly poisoned by arsenic in the wallpaper of his villa-in-exile. The mansion acquired the island's first TV in 1995.

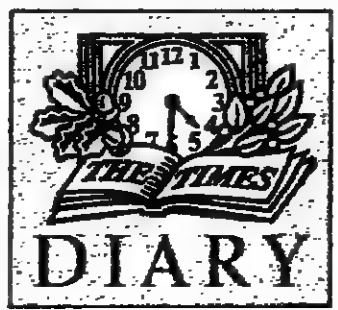


Visitors: Foulkes and Napoleon

● Tony Banks, speaking at a gay pub on Tuesday night, was asked which part of his body he would pierce. "The bit that doesn't hurt," he replied. "Through my brain."

Choppy waters

PLANS for a new regal vessel have not sunk after all. Representatives of the Britannic Project, who saw their plan to build a new yacht



come to naught, have held a private meeting with Geoffrey Robinson, Paymaster General, to discuss a startlingly similar proposal.

"We have a guaranteed £300 million to build a cruise vessel to rival the QE2," says Britannic's Peter Robbins. "It will be known as the national flagship and we will offer it to the Royal Family and the Government to use for 40 days a year." But Robinson said he would need proof of the financial backing. The GEC Marine shipbuilding plant in Barrow is ready. Another obstacle is convincing the Royal Family that the vessel will meet their requirements. "It will need royal quarters to be the Ship of State," says Robbins. How brave is the Royal Family feeling?

● BOTTOMS UP to that old survivor, Lord King of Warrnaby.

master of the skies. His wife Lorna organised a surprise bash for him in Mayfair last night and Baroness Thatcher made a speech. Tactfully, she resisted raising her pet subject: British Airways' new tailfins.

Bare cheek

STRIPPAGRAMS are considered outé in new Labour circles. But not by Keith Vaz, MP. The PPS had been fretting about how to celebrate the 66th birthday of his boss, the Attorney-General, John Mor-



"That's the new budget"

ris. After much Biro-nibbling he had an idea: a strippagram should be hired to turn up at Morris's Buckingham Gate office and bare all. One of Vaz's Commons chums knew a suitable girl, naturally. Problem. The stripper works by day as a traffic-warden, over which profession the Attorney-General has some control. "The Solicitor-General, Lord Falconer, vetoed it," says a deflated Vaz. "We got Lord Merlyn-Rees to present him with a portrait instead." How sensible.

● HOW these Tories love each other. Virginia Bottomley and Sir Peter Tapsell, Tory grandees, have been fighting over Tony Benn's old seat on the Opposition benches. The two have been arriving earlier and earlier in an attempt to snatch the seat. Yesterday Ginnie was in by 7.30am, only to find that Sir Peter had already placed his prayer card. "He won because he's younger and more energetic than me," allowed Mrs B. "At least he turned up with the newspapers and allowed me to read them."

So vein

CAVORTING in corsets on Merchant Ivory films has done little to enhance the physique of the actress Helena Bonham Carter: she



SHORT ON SPECIFICS

Unrealistic targets flaw the White Paper on aid

Wise governments husband their credibility. They do not promise to do things which ordinary people know to be manifestly beyond their power. Clare Short's White Paper on Britain's aid policies contains a great deal that makes sense — particularly where it builds on the work done by her admirable predecessor at development, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey. Her most concrete decision, the ending of the Aid and Trade Provision which helps British exporters to win contracts in the name of aid, shuts down the slush fund that financed the Pergau Dam in Malaysia and which damages Britain's reputation for effective aid policies.

The greater pity, then, that the title she has given the paper, *Eliminating World Poverty*, fails the credibility test at the start. There are now 1.3 billion people who subsist on the equivalent of a dollar a day, 23 per cent of the world's population. Even if that proportion were halved by 2015, as the White Paper promises, population growth would still leave 900 million "absolutely poor". But that is not the limit of Ms Short's ambitions. She has invented a whole new series of universal "human rights", including "the right to continuous improvements of living conditions... social protection... just and favourable conditions of work... and family life". By these tests, which muddle goals with rights, who is not poor?

The problem with "poverty elimination", as distinct from the laudable desire to reduce the incidence of extreme poverty, goes beyond the numbers game. To set such a goal greatly over-estimates what international aid, which is only a tiny fraction of financial flows, can achieve. Foreign aid can never do more than make a marginal, though potentially important, difference to the prospects of people in poor countries. To insist on a central role for "pro-poor" policies, as the White Paper does, is also to ignore one of the clearest lessons of the past 40 years. This is that aid aimed at the very poorest almost always misses its target, whereas raising overall income through rapid growth in-

creases the choices available to everybody. The White Paper itself acknowledges that "without growth — with stagnant or even declining incomes — the poor will only be able to make insignificant improvements in their livelihoods at the expense of other poor people". But this wisdom is buried in the small print, and is qualified by references to "poverty focused objectives".

This is not the only aspect of the White Paper to fail the reality check. Ms Short appears to have succumbed to the aid industry's most contagious disease, targetitis. She has shouldered a laundry-basket full of United Nations goals, all to be achieved by 2015 — a two-thirds reduction in infant mortality rates; universal access to primary education and health care; and environmentally sound policies in every country. She has also committed Britain to more than doubling its aid, to 0.7 per cent of GNP — which she claims to have convinced Gordon Brown will be done within this Parliament. This is the hoariest of all UN targets, and when so much existing aid is misdirected or abused, Ms Short's priority should be to improve the quality, rather than the quantity, of such assistance.

The greatest defects are found not in Britain's bilateral aid, which accounts for less than half the total aid budget, but in the mismanaged UN and European Union aid programmes to which Britain contributes heavily. The White Paper commits Britain to "enhanced" support for the UN's development activities — without a word about the need for UN agencies to show that these provide value for money. Ms Short could usefully consult the Danish Government, which has attached rigorous conditions to funds for UN aid programmes. Ms Short dislikes "conditionality", preferring costlier words like "partnership". She will discover its uses before long: being tough on the causes of poverty means being tough with the elites, in international bureaucracies and national governments, whose hearts bleed so much less easily than her own.

CURRENCY OF BUSINESS

The Government should be sceptical of CBI claims for EMU

If the Church of England used to be the Tory party at prayer, the Confederation of British Industry was the Tory party at business. Over the past year, however, its allegiance has switched to Labour and not entirely out of political opportunism. The issue of the single currency has allegedly soured big business's relations with the Conservatives. Now Adam Turner, head of the CBI, predicts that the rift will continue for ten years, the period in which the Tories have promised to oppose Britain's membership of the euro.

Big companies are not united in their fervour for EMU. CBI surveys of its members usually show a small majority in favour, but nothing like unanimity. Indeed, one of the most vociferous EMU-sceptics, Sir Stanley Kalms of Dixons, is on the CBI Council. And of those companies that express enthusiasm, most are not keen to join straightaway, but only if the economic conditions seem right.

Fluctuations in exchange rates are a clear problem for businesses. They lead either to uncertainty or to extra costs if companies decide to hedge against the exchange-rate movements. But these costs are not huge, usually a few percentage points of the total export contract. If all their trading could be done in one currency, there would be of course savings; but Europe's single currency would not spare them from the fluctuations of dollar or yen. And what businesses often fail to recognise is the possible adverse effect on their profits of Britain sharing a common interest rate as well as a common currency.

This blindness is surprising, since most must remember the horrors of the ERM

when, for at least two years, British interest rates had to be far higher than the domestic economy demanded. The result was a steep fall in demand, turning profits into losses and causing widespread bankruptcies and high unemployment. Entry to the ERM was cheered by the CBI.

In a single currency, unlike the ERM, there would be no escape from such a quandary. And a government in this position would not even be able to relax fiscal policy to compensate for the tight monetary policy. The stability pact would preclude such a move. So the economy could spend years in recession, which would be a disaster for British business.

Why, then, does the Government feel under so much pressure from business to join EMU? Mainly because the CBI is campaigning so hard for it. Yet CBI members are not wholly behind the stance of their organisation. Business leaders are, on the whole, pragmatic people. Few are likely to be against membership of EMU in principle, for ever. It is not surprising that the majority of them want Britain to join if the conditions are right for any pragmatist, assent to that proposition amounts to a tautology.

Only 28 per cent in the last survey wanted Britain to join in 1999. And that is the only meaningful question to ask in order to ascertain real enthusiasm for the project. Until a "clear and unambiguous" (to borrow a phrase) majority of big businesses is keen to join a single currency as soon as possible, ministers should take what the CBI says with a pinch of salt.

NEW YORK, NEW ORDER

American lessons for both Hague and Blair

The decisive re-election of Rudolph Giuliani as Mayor of New York represents the triumph of performance and policy over party and personality. The mayor is a Republican, which is hardly an asset in a city where fewer than one in ten voters are registered supporters of that party. Mr Giuliani has compensated for the absence of a natural electorate, partly by governing in a manner that defies conventional labels. He endorsed the unsuccessful bid of the incumbent Democrat, Mario Cuomo, in the New York Governor's contest three years ago, and only reluctantly backed Bob Dole last year.

His personality does not endear him to New Yorkers. Mr Giuliani is seen even by his fans as tough to the point of being mean. He has none of the slickness that brings success in American politics. That, though, has proved irrelevant. The mayor has been exceptionally effective. A city that once appeared to court the description "un-governable" is in vastly better condition than when he was first elected. On that basis his powerful showing is what he deserved.

The Giuliani formula is one familiar in many American states and cities. Crime, which had reached epidemic proportions, has been tackled with the radical new policing strategy of "Zero Tolerance". Its tough approach to what was once seen as minor crime has reduced all categories of offences. The once enormous welfare clientele of the city has been sharply cut by a new emphasis on work. Taxes have come down from their

crippling heights. As a result, New York has become a more secure city in all senses.

The other significant elections on Tuesday night confirmed similar trends. In New Jersey, Governor Christie Whitman narrowly won re-election. She had delivered on her pledge to slash state income tax by 30 per cent. Her margin was so close because property and other taxes remain at unpopular levels. In Virginia, Jim Gilmore will succeed his fellow Republican, George Allen, as Governor. His victorious campaign was based almost entirely on ending the state's burdensome taxes on vehicles. He was also seen as the more determined on crime and welfare reform. The continued salience of these key issues augurs well for Republicans in next November's congressional elections.

Both main parties in Britain have become accustomed to seeking political ideas from the United States. There are lessons here for William Hague and Tony Blair. The Conservatives might be inspired to draw examples from Republican governors and mayors, rather than Newt Gingrich and his *Contract with America*. Labour would be wise to reconsider how tightly to embrace the Clinton Administration. The President has associated himself with populist stances on crime, tax and welfare. He has done so largely because his Republican opponents left him with little option. Mr Blair would doubtless like to be regarded as a tough, effective, moderate. If so, he should indeed look west — but to New York not Washington.

Masons on Bench must be identified

From the Chairwoman of the Association of Women Barristers

Sir, Complaints by senior judges that they would find a compulsory register of Freemasons "offensive" and "an infringement of privacy and of freedom of association" (report, November 3) deserve examination.

The difference between judicial office and private practice is that the incumbent wields the power and authority of the State — indeed, of the Sovereign.

Taking first the charge of offensiveness, subjective reaction is not an argument. The question is whether this proposal is in the public interest. We submit that the status quo is damaging to public confidence in the judiciary. It is not good enough for the judiciary to say, in effect: "Trust us; if we are tempted towards bias we will let you know."

The charge that privacy would be infringed neglects the fact that the European Convention on Human Rights contains a public-interest exception, which I suggest would clearly apply.

The argument that freedom of association would be infringed is wholly bad, since the Home Affairs Select Committee did not recommend that the judiciary be prohibited from membership. The issue is whether a litigant is entitled to know if a particular judge belongs to a society whose members are pledged to assist one another. It is, I suggest, a worthwhile requirement in order to ensure that litigants can see the judge's loyalty to justice has no competitor.

For that reason, *inter alia*, this association's submissions to the select committee recommended compulsory disclosure of membership; and many people, both within the legal profession and elsewhere, especially women, expressed support for our stand.

Judges apparently argue that they have to deal with conflicts of interest in any case. But if, as you report, the need for compulsory declaration has been accepted in relation to non-judicial parts of the criminal justice system, for example the police, then *a fortiori* it applies to the judiciary, in view of their greater power over prosecutions.

It is suggested that there will be large-scale resignations from the judiciary if disclosure of masonic membership is made compulsory. That improbable prospect can be faced without fear: their places can quickly be filled from the large pool of talent in our legal profession, including under-represented groups such as women and ethnic minorities.

Yours sincerely,
J. M. HAYES, Chairwoman,
The Association of Women Barristers,
3 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
November 3.

From Dr Edward M. A. Willhoft

Sir, You report that senior judges are arguing a special case for avoiding becoming listed in the register of Freemasons because it "would encourage litigants to seek judges they thought might be more sympathetic to their cause". Well really, that just about says it all.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD M. A. WILLHOFT,
41 Higher Green, Epsom, Surrey.
emwillhoft@aol.com
November 3.

Open discussion of PR

From Mr Andrew Stallard

Sir, I do not believe there is any contradiction, as Mr James Moorhouse, MEP, suggests (letter, October 29), in expecting Labour MEPs to sign a code of practice pledging not to speak publicly on proposed changes to the system of European elections, and Mr Peter Hain's recent article on proportional representation (October 23).

Peter Hain has accepted the fact that PR will be introduced and his article simply contributes to the discussion taking place on what form we should adopt. Labour MEPs, however, are being reminded of Labour's commitment to the electorate, a commitment that they should honour.

As an active Labour Party member I took pride during the election in the knowledge that the Labour Government would keep the promises it made and the people justifiably believe that this should be so. I do not want wayward MEPs, frightened of losing their seats, to undermine the effort that we in the grass roots put into achieving success for our party. They have the same opportunity as everyone else to make a positive and valuable contribution to the PR debate.

Yours sincerely,
A. STALLARD,
37 Garrick Close, Hershaw, Surrey.
andrew.stallard@btinternet.com
October 29.

Colour code

From Dr P. J. C. Chapman

Sir, With all the talk of yellow ribbons, what colour ribbon should one wear to express the opposite view?

Yours faithfully,
PETER CHAPMAN,
Whitstone,
Highbrook, West Hoo, Sussex,
November 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Artistic and financial cost of Covent Garden proposal

From Mr Richard Fisher

Sir, In proposing that two opera companies and a ballet company should share one theatre (reports, November 5 and 6), the Culture Secretary seems strangely unfamiliar with English operatic history. In 1959, at the behest of the Arts Council, Sadler's Wells Opera (now ENO) absorbed the old Carl Rosa opera company, with its extensive touring commitments, and for the next nine years two companies lived under the same roof at Sadler's Wells Theatre.

In theory one company performed in London while the other was on tour, and vice versa, but since regional theatres were not available year-round this did not always work out in practice, and the operation put an intolerable strain on all concerned. It was only with great difficulty that musical and production standards were maintained.

The solution was to be a new opera house for the company on the South Bank, next to the new National Theatre. Plans for both were far advanced, but when Labour came to power in 1964, the new Government announced that while it would continue to fund the building of the National Theatre it had no money to build an opera house, and the project was cancelled.

It was only thanks to the vision of the company's managing director, Stephen Arlen, with the support of Lord Goodman, and Prince Luitpold at the London Coliseum, that the company was finally able to move there in 1968.

If two opera companies sharing one theatre manifestly did not work thirty years ago, it is difficult to believe that two opera companies and a ballet company will do any better now. It is ironic that it should be another Labour Government that seems determined to frustrate yet again the progress of this country's oldest opera company.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD FISHER
(Sadler's Wells Opera, 1961-88),
1 Middle Lane, N8,
November 5.

From Sir John Tooley

Sir, Bold and imaginative ideas are needed to remedy the financial and managerial ills of London's opera houses. The proposal put forward by the Secretary of State for Culture is not the answer.

From Mr Nicholas Beale

Sir, The philosophical and scientific arguments for the existence of God — well summarised, for instance, in Professor Keith Ward's *God, Chance and Necessity* (Oneworld, 1996) — are now almost overwhelming.

This is one reason why in a scientifically literate nation like the US the vast majority of people believe in God, with graduates somewhat more likely to be theists than non-graduates. Nor is it easy to explain how, without the resurrection, 11 dejected followers of a wandering teacher, who never wrote a book and was executed in his 30s, now have two billion successors worldwide.

So Matthew Parris ("Wishing upon a star", October 31) is right to draw attention to people like his friend, a "philosophy graduate from Cambridge", who had never seriously considered these arguments, whilst falling for absurd superstitions about shooting stars.

People are free to choose what they believe. But if they fail to consider the arguments, they cannot claim to be educated, whatever their paper qualifications.

Yours faithfully,
N. C. L. BEALE,
Scheb Ltd, 1 Hay Hill,
Berkeley Square, W1.

WPC's death

From Professor Juliet Cheetham

Sir, The death of WPC Nina Mackay (report, October 27; letters, October 28) is a tragedy and is, of course, being followed by anguished inquiries about how it could have been avoided.

Searching questions are already being asked about appropriate body armour and about the implications of community care and the courts' attempts to stop prisons being overwhelmed with people on remand.

Your detailed and careful reporting of this awful affair also provokes other questions which deserve equally careful analysis.

French road strike

From Mr George Hubbard

Sir, Hasn't the European Union a more positive role to play in the French truckers' dispute?

Would it not be appropriate for the EU in the first instance to meet all the reasonable claims for losses incurred by foreign companies, and then to ensure that payment is recouped speedily from the French authorities?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE HUBBARD,
The Rectory,
High Street,
Willingham, Cambridge,
November 3.

None of the companies will have sufficient stage time for the fulfilment of their artistic aspirations and none will be able to employ their resources fully, thus negating the all-important concept of value for money.

Extending access to performances is an integral part of the philosophy of public funding of the arts. Huge strides have been made in the development of education programmes, but ticket price has become more of an obstacle because of declining funding and the need to attempt to make good ensuing deficits through the box office.

Along with many other arts organisations, the Royal Opera House has been one of the truly great success stories of postwar Britain. Not only would a fundamental change in its mode of operation be disastrous for the reputation of this country for failing to find the means of supporting it, but it would be a betrayal of the hundreds of men and women through whose talent and commitment the companies of the Royal Opera House have gained world recognition and admiration since Covent Garden's reopening in 1946. The same is also true of ENO.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TOOLEY
(General Director,
Royal Opera House, 1970-88),
2 Leicester Mews, W2,
November 5.

From the Director of Development at the Royal Academy of Arts

Sir, Whilst there may be political advantages in the proposal for the Royal Opera House and ENO to share Covent Garden, not least a justification for investing £78 million lottery money in the building, there will be costs.

Lack of clarity could make fundraising more difficult for both companies. When I was responsible for ENO's fundraising between 1989 and 1995, we built upon the extraordinary loyalty of ENO's public through initiatives such as "Sponsor an Opera" which raised over £2 million in the period. Such results depend upon a close relationship between the company, its home and its public. There is serious danger that ENO will lose its identity at Covent Garden and its appeal to sponsors and donors.

This proposal will also reduce access. ENO will have to perform less. Unless the Royal Opera reduces its prices substantially there will be

fewer performances of affordable opera available to people who live in or visit the capital. Yet attendance figures prove that there is sufficient demand for two opera houses in London. As touring opera is prohibitively expensive, this proposal will not result in any public gain.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN NICKSON
(Director of Development and the Royal Academy Trust),
Royal Academy of Arts,
Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1,
November 5.

From Mr Robin Darrington

Sir, No one should wonder why the Royal Opera House is giving cautious welcome to amalgamation. The opportunity to annex the entire capital assets, plus the whole annual subsidy, of English National Opera to cover up its own mismanagement, while only giving the same number of performances — for that is what will happen unless Sir Richard Eyre is very careful — is the biggest windfall Chris Smith could possibly have offered.

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN DARRINGTON
(Project Director,
Royal Opera House, 1978-88),
30 Hampden Road,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

From the Countess of Minto

Sir, I do not have the qualification of being a brain surgeon, and so I humbly submit my opinion. If we choose to build a monstrous millenium dome while our capital city languishes without proper investment in the fabric and talent of our opera and theatre houses, we surely need our heads examined.

I remain, yours faithfully,
CAROLINE MINTO,
Minto Home Farm, Roxburghshire,
November 5.

From Mr Barry Ramsay

Sir, So, if Chris Smith has his way the People's Opera will soon be sharing a theatre with the Toffis' Opera. Does this mean that the toffs will be paying the people's ticket prices or vice versa? On second thoughts, I suspect I already know the answer to that one.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY RAMSAY,
119 Studland Road, W7,
November 4.

God's soldiers fight back against a fearful Parris

From the Reverend A. E. Applegarth

Sir, For a graduate in philosophy, Matthew Parris displays a remarkable lack of logic. By concluding that "In the beginning was the Word..." he is acknowledging the existence of a Prime Mover — the very thing he is at pains to discount.

The fact that Mr Parris calls the word "Fear" is immaterial. Most people still refer to it as God.

Yours faithfully,
TONY APPLGARTH,
The Rectory,
High Street, Stogursey,
Bridgwater, Somerset,
November 1.

From Dr Edward Young

Sir, Matthew Parris uses a lengthy article to explain that though he is a firm non-believer, fear still makes him superstitious.

The 18th-century poet Dr Edward Young (no relation) was more succinct: "By night an atheist half believes a God" (*Night Thoughts*, 1742-45).

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD YOUNG,
68 Beech Lane,
Earley, Reading, Berkshire,
November 1.

From Father John Buckley

Sir, May I commend your editorial, "All Saints" (November 1). A post-Christian society that moves ever ominously towards paganism begins to develop pagan attitudes to realities like death. Pagan society masks death and surrounds it with bizarre rituals and games, in an effort to bury it further.

In the case of the late Princess Diana, the hundreds of thousands who genuflected or bowed in the process of placing flowers on pavements, or pelted the hearse as it moved along, were trying to express a tremendous grief at the loss of a loved one. But one has to ask when all the flowers have gone, what then? Or one might question with W. B. Yeats, "Was it needless death after all?"

Your excellent piece, which placed Jesus of Nazareth at the centre of things, helped to bring light and love to bear on the apparent needlessness and meaninglessness of Princess Diana's death, and indeed on all human death. For this, what remains of Christian Britain is indebted to you.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BUCKLEY,
The Presbytery,
Martin Street, Bishop's Waltham,
Southampton, Hampshire,
November 3.

Royals in Africa

From Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP for Cotswold (Conservative)

Sir, I am delighted to see that the visit by the Prince of Wales and Prince Harry to Southern Africa was such a success (report, November 5). Clearly, their Royal Highnesses were very well received and enjoyed a warm welcome. Could it be that the absence of the Foreign Secretary was a contributory factor?

As I said in the House of Commons recently, a quiet period of reflection by the Foreign Secretary would do him and his country a power of good.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY CLIFTON-BROWN,
House of Commons,
November 5.

Prayers and pints

From the Reverend M. J. Hensman

Sir, I am an ordained Christian minister who rides a motor cycle (letters, October 22, November 1, 5). I sometimes find it easier to pray and to worship God while on the bike than in some church services. Mind you it is not a good idea to close your eyes in prayer or to lift your hands in praise.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. HENSMAN,
89 Sparrow Farm Road,
Stonleigh, Epsom, Surrey,
November 5.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE. November 5: His Excellency Mr. José Gregorio Paría was received in audience by the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador of the Republic of Paraguay to the Court of St James's.

Mr Paría was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Cotes (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present. The following were received in audience by the Queen upon their appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassadors: Mr Anthony Galworthy (the People's Republic of China), Mr Hayden Warren-Gash (the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire), Mr Brian Donnelly (the Republic of Yugoslavia), Mr Charles Crawford (the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Mrs Galworthy, Mrs Warren-Gash and Mrs Crawford were also received by Her Majesty.

The following were received in audience by the Queen upon their appointment as British High Commissioners: Mr Michael Dibben (the Republic of Fiji) and Mr Charles Drace-Francis (the Independent State of Papua New Guinea).

Mrs Drace-Francis was also received by Her Majesty.

Members of Her Majesty's Medical Household were received by the Queen and presented a gift to Her Majesty on the occasion of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh's Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning made a presentation to sponsors of the Prince of Wales Trust at the Government House, Wellington, New Zealand.

His Royal Highness later received former members of the Corps Royal New Zealand Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (to mark the relinquishment of his Colonel-in-Chief of the disestablishment of the Corps) and serving members of the Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment at Government House.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, today attended the St John International Award Forum in Wellington.

His Royal Highness this evening left New Zealand for Los Angeles, United States of America.

November 5: The Prince Edward, Trustee and Chairman of the International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, continued his visit to Wellington, New Zealand, for the St John International Award Forum.

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The Prince Edward afterwards visited Wanganui Collegiate School, where he attended the World Fellowship Reception and Dinner at Huka Lodge.

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November 5: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, was received in audience by the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador of the Republic of Paraguay to the Court of St James's.

Mr Paría was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Cotes (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present. The following were received in audience by the Queen upon their appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassadors: Mr Anthony Galworthy (the People's Republic of China), Mr Hayden Warren-Gash (the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire), Mr Brian Donnelly (the Republic of Yugoslavia), Mr Charles Crawford (the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Mrs Galworthy, Mrs Warren-Gash and Mrs Crawford were also received by Her Majesty.

The following were received in audience by the Queen upon their appointment as British High Commissioners: Mr Michael Dibben (the Republic of Fiji) and Mr Charles Drace-Francis (the Independent State of Papua New Guinea).

Mrs Drace-Francis was also received by Her Majesty.

Members of Her Majesty's Medical Household were received by the Queen and presented a gift to Her Majesty on the occasion of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh's Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning made a presentation to sponsors of the Prince of Wales Trust at the Government House, Wellington, New Zealand.

His Royal Highness later received former members of the Corps Royal New Zealand Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (to mark the relinquishment of his Colonel-in-Chief of the disestablishment of the Corps) and serving members of the Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment at Government House.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, today attended the St John International Award Forum in Wellington.

His Royal Highness this evening left New Zealand for Los Angeles, United States of America.

November 5: The Prince Edward, Trustee and Chairman of the International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, continued his visit to Wellington, New Zealand, for the St John International Award Forum.

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Luncheons

RAFT
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Mr Alderman David Howard, was the guest of honour at a luncheon held yesterday at the Mansion house in aid of RAFT, a charity supporting research and education in reconstructive plastic surgery and burn injury treatment. Sir Robin Chichester Clark, chairman, presided. Mr Anthony Julius, Trustee of the Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, was the guest speaker.

Arts Council of England
The Earl of Gowrie, Chairman of the Arts Council of England, and Mr John Spearman were the hosts at a luncheon held yesterday at 14 Great Peter Street.

The King's School, Canterbury and Workshop College
Professor Thomas Stupleton, O.K.S., presided at a luncheon which was held at The Athenaeum yesterday as a tribute to the late Canon P.J. Shirley and to mark the publication of *Freud Remembered* edited by Robin Pittman. The Headmasters of Workshop College and The King's School, Canterbury, were present.

Ladies' Naval Luncheon Club
Dame Stella Rimington was the guest speaker at the autumn luncheon of the Ladies' Naval Luncheon Club held yesterday at the London Goodenough Trust, Madingley Square. Lady Brown, chairman of the club, presided.

The Times pensioners
A luncheon of The Times pensioners was held yesterday at the United Oxford and Cambridge University Club. Mr Philip Howling was the guest speaker. Those present were:

Mr Margaret Allen, Mr James Bellingham, Mr Peter Bill, Mr Richard Davy, Mr Frank Eggleston, Mr Peter Evans, Mr W.J.H. Evans, Mr John Grant, Mr John Harprow, Mr Walter James, Mrs Veronica McDonald, Mr Edward Mortimer, Mr Leon Poppel, Mr David Spangler, Mr Henry Stanger, Mr John Taylor, Mr Colin Watson, Mr Colin Webb, Mr Richard Wigg, Mr Alan Wood and Mr Geoffrey Wigg.

Receptions

HM Government
Lord Clinton-Davis, Minister for Trade, was the host at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lancaster House to mark the ninth meeting of the Turkish British Business Council.

Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators
Mr George Bartlett, President of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, presided at a reception held last night at 16 Park Court, London, after the annual church service held at St Marylebone Parish Church, marking the centenary of the founding of the ICSA's benevolent fund.

York House
November 5: The Duke of Kent, Vice Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning visited the International Trustees at the Open House, later visited the Open House to view the renovations.

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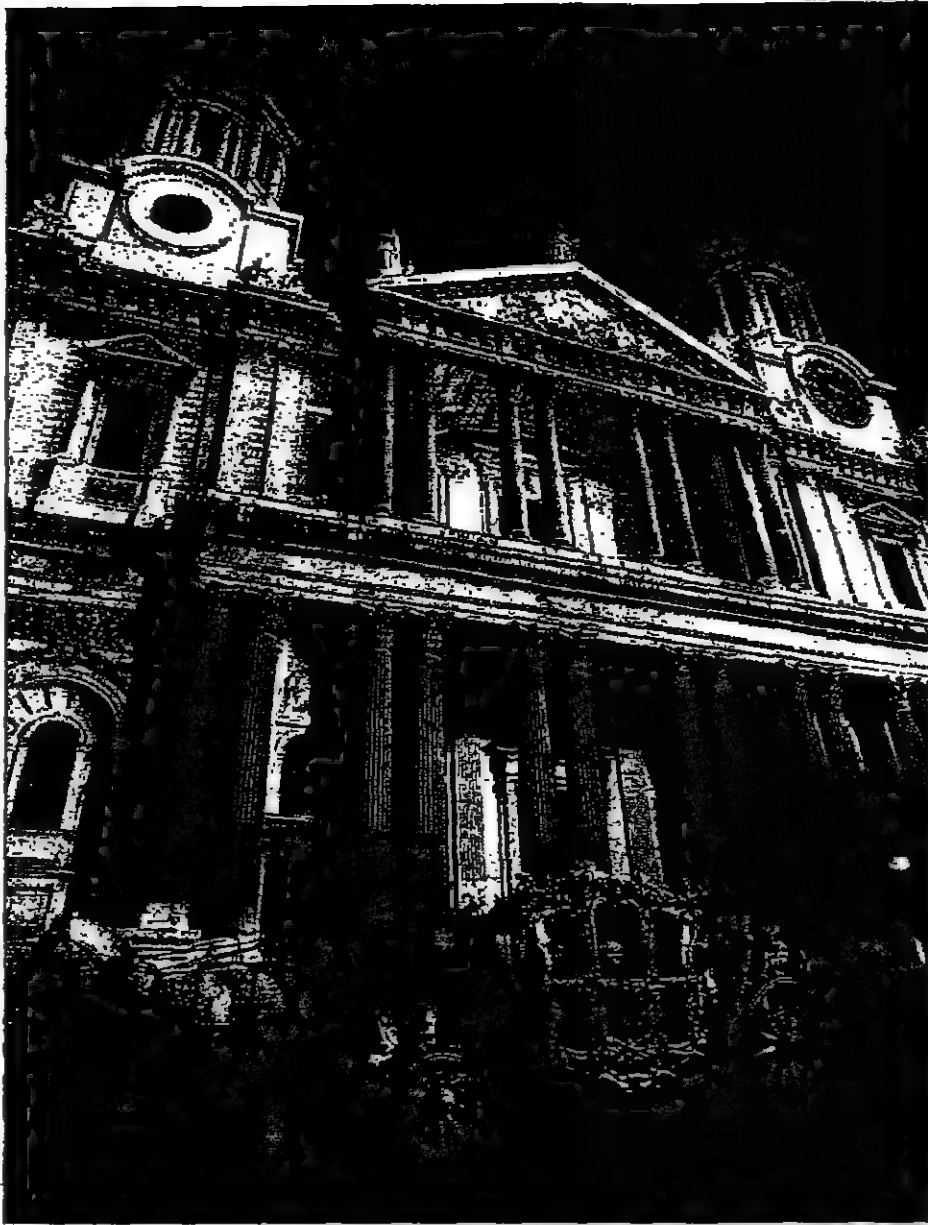
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The Lord Mayor's coach, carrying the Lord Mayor Elect, Alderman Richard Nichols, gliding past St Paul's Cathedral early yesterday morning during a rehearsal for the Lord Mayor's Show on Saturday

The Institute of Export

Examination results May 1997
The following have completed all parts of either the Professional Examination Part I or the Professional Examination Part II/Diploma in Export Management:

Part I: In November 1996: Ms S. Wallis; In May 1997: Mrs A.R. Flinn, Miss J. E. Hudson, Miss B.W. James, Mr P. J. Mearns, Mr Z.M. Pope, Miss C. A. Scott, Miss D. J. Sturt, Mr R. G. Whittington.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.D.S. Bowden and Miss A.D.I. McKay
The engagement is announced between Alexander, eldest son of Mr Alan Bowden, of Colne, Wiltshire, and Mrs Veronica Rose, of Redditch, Worcestershire, and Anna, youngest daughter of Mr Peter McKay, of Kensington, London, and Mrs Elizabeth McKay, of

OBITUARIES

GEORGE CHAMBERS

George Chambers, former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, died of cancer in Port of Spain on November 4 aged 69. He was born on October 4, 1928.

When George Chambers succeeded the autocratic Dr Eric Williams as Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago in 1981, he took over a country grown rich in the oil boom of the 1970s. But he was faced almost at once with the task of preparing his compatriots for the harsher realities of life after the oil revenues dried up. His attempts to preach restraint and to diversify the economy met with much resistance, and in 1986 he and his party, which had held power uninterrupted for thirty years, suffered a crushing defeat at the polls.

George Michael Chambers was born in Trinidad and left school in his early teens with only a partial secondary education, becoming an office boy in a local solicitor's office. By taking correspondence courses and by reading, he prepared himself for a wider career, and then worked for a time in the legal department of a foreign oil company operating in Trinidad.

During Chambers's early manhood, political life in Trinidad, emerging from colonial tutelage, was electorally fragmented and chaotic. The return of Dr Eric Williams to Trinidad changed this almost overnight, and in 1956 his People's National Movement (PNM) achieved the political ascendancy which it maintained for the next three decades.

The PNM was one of the best organised parties in the Commonwealth Caribbean, and Williams appreciated those who showed method and application in constituency work. Chambers joined the party, worked diligently, and in 1966 contested his first parliamentary election, handsomely winning the seat.

He was immediately appointed Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, and in 1969 became Minister of Public Utilities and Housing. In 1970, a difficult period for public order in Trinidad — it was the year of the army mutiny — he was made Minister of National Security, and in 1971 he became Minister of Finance, Planning and Development. At the same time he advanced in the party organisation, becoming assistant general secretary.

Williams valued Chambers's advice on party matters, and supported him as one of the three deputy political leaders of the PNM; but he eventually removed him from Finance, taking the portfolio himself in 1975. Chambers



remained in the Cabinet as Minister of Education and Culture, and subsequently, as Minister of Industry and Commerce, with the additional responsibilities of Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries.

The unexpected death of Williams in March 1981 left, by his express design, no heir apparent. Chambers was not generally considered a leading contender, and it was with some surprise that President Ellis Clarke, after soundings, had appointed him.

An election was held seven months later, on November 9. Chambers swept back, even increasing the PNM majority by two, from 24 to 26. This was a triumph, as the main opposition parties

had combined in an electoral alliance, with power bases in Tobago and among the East Indian population in the sugar belt; two Indian seats fell to the PNM, traditionally the party of the black urban worker. A new party, the Organisation for National Reconstruction, failed to gain a seat but polled a significant aggregate vote.

Before Chambers became Prime Minister, and in the early months of office, he seemed pleasantly modest and low-key. His interests were the private ones of reading and listening to operatic recordings, both somewhat unusual in Trinidad.

Unlike the reclusive Williams, he was approachable, and the contrast, and perhaps the relief that all was not

crashing with the death of "The Doctor", secured him support and great goodwill. He also allowed the lid to be lifted on some of the gross corruption with which several of Williams's ministers had been involved, and he cut back some of the more extravagant projects which had been started.

He wished to see government made more effective, and a sense of responsibility engendered. But he also himself now became more opinionated and seemingly less willing to listen. He resumed contact with his fellow heads of government in the Caribbean Community, which Williams had virtually boycotted. But here, too, he soon began to show both arrogance and a tendency to lecture leaders who, on the whole, were much better educated and more experienced than he was. His *amour propre* showed itself, for instance, in the Grenada crisis of October 1983, when he insisted on summoning the meeting of Caricom government heads to Port of Spain, even though Barbados was clearly their venue of choice; there he took a line against military intervention which was not popular with Trinidadians.

His popularity had already begun to wane before then, as he began to face up to the problems that came inevitably with declining oil revenues. Trinidad and Tobago recorded its first balance of payments deficit in 1982, and as the boom which had transformed it into the Caribbean's richest country in the 1970s faded, Chambers warned his countrymen that "the fire is over, and it is time for the country to go back to work".

It was not a popular message. Attempts to introduce wage restraint were met with strikes. Unemployment rose steadily. Chambers's decision to ask the International Monetary Fund for aid in diversifying the country's shrinking economy was severely criticised in some quarters.

At the general election of December 1986, the PNM suffered a landslide defeat. Chambers and all but two of his ministers lost their seats. The opposition National Alliance for Reconstruction under A. N. R. Robinson took 33 of the 36 seats in the House of Representatives. Two years later, by which time the price of oil had slumped, Chambers's successor negotiated IMF loans of some \$200 million.

Chambers retired from politics and largely withdrew from public life after his party's rout at the polls. He was succeeded as Leader of the Opposition by Patrick Manning, a former Minister of Energy. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

LESLIE PEROWNE

Leslie Perowne, broadcasting executive, died on November 1 aged 91. He was born on August 15, 1906.



IN following his own career, Leslie Perowne suffered from two personal handicaps. He never quite recovered from being not only the son but the grandson of a Bishop of Worcester, in the grand days when such prelates occupied the whole of Hartlebury Castle. And, similarly, even after his father died (which he did as long ago as 1948), he failed to emerge wholly successfully from the shadow cast by his elder brother, Stewart, the noted orientalist and one-time husband of Freya Stark.

Leslie Arthur Perowne followed his brother to school at Haileybury but, unlike his older sibling, did not go on to university. Instead, he was articled to an architect and, although he never passed any professional exams, he was always to regard architecture as an integral part of his life. For a brief period he ran a record shop in Salisbury and, although this hardly met with the approval of his father, it did in those pioneering days enable him to land his first job with the BBC — in what was known at the time as "the Gramophone section".

He soon managed a transfer to the more exciting Variety department, where he became known as "the king of Swing", claiming to have put "jazz on the map" (though jazz in Britain probably owed more to Alastair Cooke, with his 1938 series *I Hear America Singing*). Later, having returned to the Gramophone section as its head, he was also to claim credit for having launched *Desert Island Discs* in 1941, though the formula for this programme was undoubtedly devised by its founding presenter, Roy Plomley.

Appointed head of the Variety department in 1942, he had the bad luck, later that year, aged 36, to be called up into the Royal Engineers. With his BBC background, he soon escaped into the Army Broadcasting Service, helping with Forces stations in Algeria, Italy, Greece and Austria.

On demobilisation he returned to the BBC, where he used to boast that he had started the first version of *Woman's Hour* and also propelled *Down Your Way* on its long journey into broadcasting history. But the first sign that all was not entirely well may, in retrospect, have surfaced with his appointment in 1949 as director of the British Forces Network, based in Hamburg.

Although this was a responsible post, it necessarily removed him from the mainstream of the BBC's output, which was then concentrated on the Home Service, the Light Programme and the newly created Third Programme. He stayed in Hamburg for only two years, but the pattern of his future BBC career had been established.

After four rather nebulous years back in London he was seconded in 1955 to the Gold Coast Broadcasting Service in Accra. Once the Gold Coast attained its independence as Ghana in 1957, he moved on to become the first director of broadcasting in Sierra Leone. He remained in Freetown for four years — building up the staff from five to more than fifty — but once the country became self-governing he was encouraged to retire (apparently on the ground that he was not "a political animal", which was certainly true). He spent the last part of his working life, 1961-72, with BBC Sound Archives and, finally, once it had been established, with BBC Enterprises.

For many years he and his brother Stewart shared a house in West London. They were very much an item on the London social circuit and would usually appear together at parties. Stewart died in 1989 and Leslie continued living alone in their old home until earlier this year. A man with a great interest in the arts and music, he was proud of his skill as a dancer, recalling deep into old age how he had once "danced the Charleston with Jilly Cooper's mother". He was a lifelong bachelor.

PETER NOBES

Peter Nobes, former Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police and of West Yorkshire Police, died of a heart attack on October 13 aged 62. He was born on October 1, 1935.

WHEN Peter Nobes was going out for the evening, during his years as a senior policeman, his wife would often whisper to the driver that he should make sure not to take them past any police stations. She was afraid of arriving late, because her husband could scarcely be restrained from going in to see how his men were doing.

As Chief Constable of two Yorkshire forces in succession, Nobes did not throw his weight around or make radical changes. Instead he worked steadily and conscientiously, keeping a low profile, but supporting his officers. He was known for his fairness, his grasp of detail, and for his extensive legal knowledge and recall. He was

always respected by those who worked under him because, as a young policeman, he had had years of practical experience.

His remarkable rise, after a slow start, from the beat to the chief constable's office, was a result more of dedication than of egotistical ambition.

Born in Fakenham, Norfolk, John Peter Nobes left his secondary modern school without any formal qualifications. After a stint as a shop assistant in a grocery store, he joined the Royal Signals at Catterick for his National Service in 1954, and trained as a wireless operator. He had a natural flair for this work, and in his two years with the Signals he became a full corporal, and a valued member of the training staff. By that time he had married his childhood sweetheart, Ruth.

Despite some inclination to stay with the Armed Forces, he then joined the West Suffolk Constabulary as a policeman, influenced perhaps by his father's service as a Special



Constable. He pounded the beat for eight years in that rural country, where promotion was generally slow.

But then he passed the promotion exams, his results putting him among the top thirty in the country, and gained a place on the second "special course" held at the police staff college in Bramhall, Hampshire. This course was designed for selected high-flyers who had been identified as having the potential to reach the most

senior positions in the service relatively quickly.

The depth and breadth of his intellect now began to emerge, and he not only attained the course certificate with distinction, but won a couple of prizes as well. He was promoted to sergeant at just 28.

Nobes was well on the ladder to success. After a further spell on operative duties he was seconded to University College London to take a degree. He and Ruth now had two daughters, and they moved to a Metropolitan Police flat. Such was his dedication to his studies that when asked what his father did for a living, one of his young daughters once said: "He wrote and we have to keep quiet." While at university he was promoted to inspector, and he came away with a first in law.

In his absence, his old force had merged with another, and he returned to duty as a member of the Suffolk Constabulary. In 1969 he transferred to

the Essex and Southend-on-Sea Constabulary as a chief inspector. He served operationally at Harlow before being transferred to the staff division at Chelmsford HQ.

Promotion to superintendent followed when he had only 17 years' service, and subsequently Nobes became a chief superintendent at Basildon, before transferring to West Yorkshire in 1977 with the rank of assistant chief constable.

In due course, in 1983, he was appointed deputy chief constable of that force, before moving to North Yorkshire as Chief Constable in 1985. The following year he won the Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service.

In 1989 Peter Nobes returned to West Yorkshire as its Chief Constable. He won the force's respect by taking the time to speak to as many of his staff as possible, making visits to all divisions during the Christmas period to hear the problems and concerns of ordinary constables.

In the course of his career Peter Nobes held a number of national police appointments, including chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers' Technical and Research Group.

He was an accomplished cupbearer player; he and Ruth had become close while playing together in a band in their early years, and Peter played successfully in the Essex Police Band and the West Yorkshire Police Band. In retirement he conducted his local village band.

He is survived by his wife and daughters.

JOHN PARKER

John Parker, journalist and author, died on October 30 aged 71. He was born on September 24, 1926.



ONCE Ian Smith made his Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965, John Parker became the first of a distinguished line of journalists to be deported from Rhodesia. For 48 hours he was placed in solitary confinement, having to listen to the cries of other inmates being caged in the prison yard. He was given seven days in which to leave the country with his wife and six children.

Parker's imperturbability and modesty were such that he could dismiss this lightly in his book *Rhodesia: Little White Island*, written on his unexpected return to Britain. Yet he had been considered a prized scalp: the means by which the Smith regime could tame the country's largest newspaper group, the Argus Company. In the right-wing fanaticism that swept the country in the months preceding UDI, this was one of the last dissenting voices — and Parker was their symbol.

He was then chief sub-editor in Salisbury of the *Sunday Mail* and president of the Rhodesian Guild of Journalists. He had come into possession of the contents of two reports by prominent Rhodesian groups forecasting a dismal future for the country in the event of UDI and consequent economic sanctions. On instruction from Smith's office and under a trumped-up interpretation of the Official Secrets Act, Parker

his one regret in later life. Instead, he joined the Press Association and worked for the *Essex Chronicle* before emigrating to Southern Rhodesia in 1955 with his wife, Margaret, whom he had married in 1948. As well as working for the *Sunday Mail*, he was employed also on the *Bulawayo Chronicle* and the *Rhodesia Herald*.

When Parker returned to Britain in 1966, he moved into television, becoming deputy foreign editor and then sports editor of ITN, a job he much enjoyed. In the Caribbean in 1973-74, his cameras provided the only televised evidence of the infamous running-out of Alvin Kalichman by Tony Greig in a Test match between West Indies and England, which almost caused a riot.

After leaving ITN in 1976, Parker worked for Sir James Goldsmith's ill-fated *Now* magazine and then on the foreign desk at *The Times* and as a cricket writer for *The Sunday Times*. He himself was a decent club player who kept wicket for Essex Amateurs in the 1950s. One of his five sons, Paul, captained Sussex, where the family settled, and had one Test appearance for England.

Parker's other interests were hockey — he played for the East of England — gardening, bee-keeping, crosswords, reading detective stories and listening to music. He was the author of several books, including the popular *Tillingford* series and *Twelfth Man*, a cricket novel.

He leaves a widow, four sons and a daughter. A fifth son predeceased him.

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A PEKING COUP.

EMPEROR STRIPPED OF TITLE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS)

PEKING, Nov. 5.

The plot thickens in this city of dreadful

incrimination.

This afternoon soldiers sent by the Provisional Government invaded the Imperial Palace, closed all the entrances, and

disarmed the guards. The young Manchu Emperor was

presented with a revised version of the agreement between the Manchu family and the Republic of China, which he was required

to accept. It provides for the abolition of his title and privileges, for his retirement from the

palace, for the reduction of the annual

allowance to 500,000, for a commission to

decide what is State and what is family property, and

to see that the Emperor can choose his own place of residence, subject to the

protection of the Republic, which means that foreign

embassies are out of bounds for him. The Emperor, with the Empress and

second crown, then moved to the house of his father, Prince Chun, where he is now

carefully guarded.

The object of the coup is still obscure, but

ON THIS DAY

November 6, 1924

After the coup the emperor Hsuan Tung (known as P'u Yi) surrendered to the Japanese who in 1934 made him emperor of Manchukuo. In 1945 he was captured by the Russians who, in 1950, handed him over to Communist China. After nine years of political indoctrination he was freed. P'u Yi died in 1967.

As a child he remained in the Imperial Palace under the guardianship of the Empress Dowager Lung Yu. Her death in 1914

acted as a spur to the ambitions of Yuan Shikai, who had become Dictator-President, and

desired to restore the Monarchy with himself as Emperor.

Yuan died in 1916 and China entered upon a

period of uncertainty in the midst of which

General Chang Hsun came to Peking, ostensibly to mediate between warring poli-

ticians, but in reality to restore the Manchu

dynasty. Chang was attacked and after a

few days' fighting capitulated and the young

Emperor went back into retirement.

on this point are highly desirable.

The Manchu dynasty, which had ruled

China since 1644, ceased to reign with the

abdication of Hsuan Tung on February 12,

1912.

Hsuan Tung was the tenth of the line, was

born on February 11, 1906, and succeeded his

uncle Kuang-Hsu on November 14, 1908.

From the fact that he came to the throne when

quite an infant he is known as the "Boy

Emperor." By the terms of his abdication he

retained the title of Emperor of the Manchu

Imperial House and was granted a subsidy of

\$4,000,000, but at his death both title and

subsidy were to cease.

As a child he remained in the Imperial

Palace under the guardianship of the Em-

press Dowager Lung Yu. Her death in 1914

acted as a spur to the ambitions of Yuan Shikai, who had become Dictator-President, and

desired to restore the Monarchy with himself as Emperor.

NEWS

Blair accused over tobacco ban

■ Tony Blair was accused of destroying an eight-year effort to end cigarette advertising across Europe after he decided to exempt Formula One motor racing from a ban on tobacco sponsorship.

The Prime Minister's U-turn has almost certainly scuppered any chance of a Europe-wide advertising ban this century — the EU had expected to approve one next month. It has also infuriated the health lobby. Page 1

Lamont attack on Heseltine

■ Norman Lamont undermined the Conservative pro-European fightback by accusing Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine of caring more about Europe than the pound and alleging that Mr Clarke once said that Britain should be absorbed into a federal Europe. Page 1

Hunting reprieve

Tony Blair ruled out allowing time for anti-hunting legislation in this parliamentary session. He told MPs that he was not prepared to risk the loss of key government business. Page 1

Heathrow escape

The pilot of a trans-Atlantic Airbus made a dramatic emergency landing at Heathrow airport without causing any serious injuries to passengers. Page 1

Rail regulator row

Ministers will tighten control of the rail regulator amid astonishment that he has abandoned plans to name firms giving poor information to passengers. Page 2

Hindu boot anger

The shoe manufacturers' Clark's was the target of calls for a boycott by the 900,000-strong British Hindu community, for "blasphemy" over naming footwear after gods. Page 3

Woodward adamant

Louise Woodward was "absolutely, completely adamant" that she would accept only an "all or nothing" charge of murder, said her defence attorney. Page 5

London car ban

Public access to London's most famous landmarks will be transformed under plans announced to ban cars from much of Trafalgar Square, Parliament Square and Whitehall. Page 7

Mystery opera lovers give £15m

■ Wealthy benefactors have responded to a cry for help from the beleaguered Royal Opera House, donating £15m to keep afloat until the opening of its new building in two years' time. The identity of the patrons was not revealed but the ROH went out of its way to stress that it was neither of its most active benefactors, Vivien Duffield or Lord Sainsbury. Page 1

Ban on poppies

People should not be penalised for wearing remembrance poppies, the Prime Minister said as he rebuked a factory in Northern Ireland that has suspended 20 workers without pay. Page 9

Hijackers jailed

Six Iraqis who fear death under Saddam Hussein's regime were jailed after hijacking a jet and forcing it to fly them to Britain. Page 11

Strike violence

A dozen masked men wielding crowbars and baseball bats attacked striking lorry drivers at a blockade in southern France as union leaders and haulage bosses sought a way to end the increasingly violent strike. Page 13

Cyclone deaths

One of the worst cyclones to strike the Cook Islands has left five people dead and 14 missing while hundreds of homes have been wiped out. Page 14

Yeltsin axe

President Yeltsin dismissed one of the Kremlin's most powerful and controversial figures to try to end a feud among his senior advisers. Page 16

UN appeal to Iraq

A United Nations mission attempted to persuade President Saddam Hussein to reverse his ban on Americans in UN inspection teams. Page 17



WPCs bow their heads as the coffin of Nina Mackay, the murdered policewoman, arrives for her funeral at Loughton, Essex. Page 2

BUSINESS

■ CBI warning: Business is likely to be at odds with the Conservatives for the next ten years because of opposition to EMU, the head of the Confederation of British Industry says. Pages 25, 27

Vickers bid: Mayflower Corporation may launch an £800 million hostile takeover bid for Vickers, which has invited offers for its Rolls-Royce business. Pages 25, 27

BA woes: British Airways vowed to put its "summer of discontent" behind it as it revealed that the cabin crew strike and strong pound contributed to a 33 per cent fall in half-year operating profits. Page 25

Markets: The FTSE-100 rose 10.9 to 4,908.3. Sterling fell to 102.4 from 102.9, down 0.98 cents to \$1.676, 1.30 pf to DM2.8572. Page 29

SPORT

Football: Chelsea's leading lights are agreed that the second leg of their Cup Winners' Cup match against Tromso will be no easy game against an expected packed defence. Page 44

Rugby league: Johnnie, who coached Wigan to 14 trophies in four seasons, is to return to the club after a 4½-year absence at the expense of Eric Hughes. Page 46

Rugby union: New Zealand will field an international-strength XV against Llanelli in the opening match of their tour. Zinzan Brooke is excluded. Page 46

Athletics: Frank Dick, head coach during Britain's most successful period, said that he would be willing to return as successor to Malcolm Arnold. Page 43

CULTURE

After ego: Nicolas Cage and John Travolta swap faces and roles as cop and villain in the week's big movie thriller, *Face/Off*. Also out this week is the latest from the "muscles from Brussels", Jean Claude Van Damme. Page 34

Delayed comeback: Fifty years after she last appeared in a movie, the double-Oscar winner, Luise Rainer, has returned in *The Gambler*. Page 35

Soundie various: Lisa Stansfield turned her Wembley Arena gig into a giant party, and a touring *Porgy and Bess* offers exhilarating entertainment. Page 36

Comic turn: The Vaudeville Theatre in the Strand is to be turned into a variety-palace featuring the best modern comedians. Page 37

HEALTH

Jeandice jab: Dr Thomas Stutzman writes about a jab to avoid hepatitis A, why women should not allow themselves to be discouraged from attending breast-screening clinics, men's health problems, sleep patterns. Page 18

Invincible star: Her records sell as well as Madonna's, yet the tabloids leave her alone and she never performs in public. Noreen Taylor talks to Ireland's star, secret, Erykah. Page 19

Capital spirit: Peter Ackroyd marvels at the time-defying spirit of London. Joanna Pitman peeps into the world of the geisha; Richard Cork on the surreal world of Salvador Dalí. Pages 38, 39

Holiday best buys: Package deals for some of the best shows in London; short breaks in Dublin; a bargain five-night break in Singapore. Page 40

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

MEDIA

In the new, expanded Media section, Michael Jackson reveals his plans for Channel 4

EDUCATION

David Charter on the financial pressures on further education

The unrepentant Iraqi crisis reminds us of the business of Saddam Hussein. But it also reminds the West of its impotence in its attempts to control a character that it did much to help into power in the period of the Iran-Iraq war. — *La Libre Belgique*

RADIO & TV

Preview: The lads are back, laddish as ever. *Men Behaving Badly* (BBC1, 9.30pm). Review: Joe Joseph on rugby according to the marketing men. Pages 46, 47

OPINION

Short on specifics

Wise governments husband their credibility. They do not promise to do things which ordinary people know to be manifestly beyond their power. The title of the aid White Paper, *Eliminating World Poverty*, fails the credibility test at the start. Page 21

Currency of business

Until a "clear and unambiguous" (to borrow a phrase) majority of big businesses is keen to join a single currency as soon as possible, ministers should take what the CBI says with a pinch of salt. Page 21

New York, new order

Tony Blair would like to be regarded as a tough, effective, moderate. He should indeed look west but to Mayor Giuliani's New York, not Clinton's Washington. Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Labour has never achieved too full terms, and has repeatedly become unpopular because of cyclical pressures on the economy. Perhaps the Government's biggest fear is that this will happen again. Page 20

NORMAN LAMONT

Ken Clarke and Michael Heseltine are rightly described as big beasts. Like the Bourbons, they have learnt nothing from history. Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

Sir Patrick Neill has the great advantage of inheriting from Lord Nolan an important working addition to our constitutional checks and balances. Page 12

GEORGE CHAMBERS

George Chambers, former Prime Minister of Trinidad; John Parker, author and journalist; Leslie Perowne, broadcaster; Peter Nobes, Chief Constable. Page 23

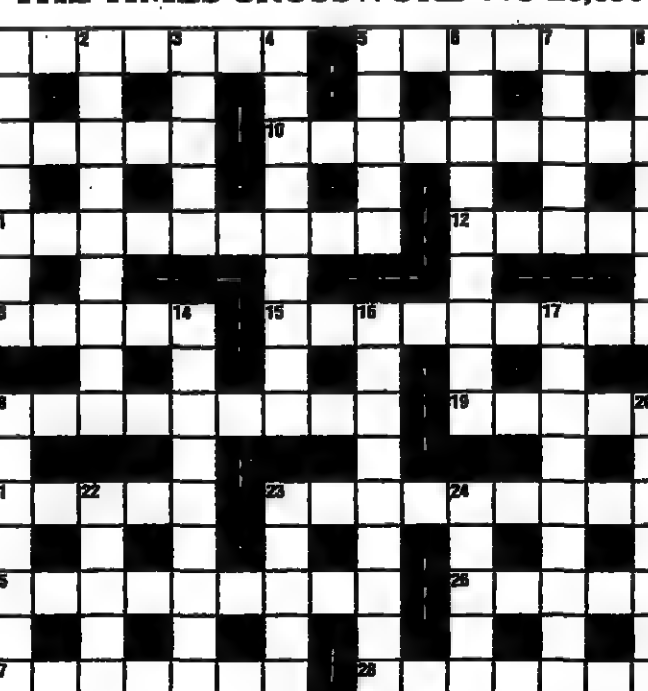
FREEMASONS

Freemasons; Covent Garden; is there a God? MEPs and PR: Royal welcome; WPC's death. Page 21

POLL RESULTS

L 4, 6, 9, 32, 38. Bonus: 46. Estimated jackpot: £3,900,000

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,630



- ACROSS
- Most of powerful remedy husband swallowed in style (7).
 - Slur on reputation inhibits us getting support (7).
 - Black bird to seek prey (5).
 - Argument after partnership accepts a deal (6,3).
 - Forcibly push pawn with impatience to attack two men (9).
 - Shrub I planted in return visit (5).
 - Meals with last of spare rib (5).
 - Cut short committee that may support one's paper (9).
 - Page turn in right place is of benefit to chapter (9).
 - Explain away damage after end of evening (5).
 - Approach time for supernatural omen (5).
 - Very taxing work in gunship (9).
 - Hermit has an uninteresting job? That's about it (9).
- Solution to Puzzle No 20,629
- BRITISH STILETTO
END OF TURIN
AMSTERDAM SIENA
RUNE IN LIND
UNLIT APRIL EART
PAIN IN LIND
PROGNOSTICATE
PAIN IN LIND
ACHIEVE STENDON
NE FEH OVR
PAGE TURNER PIETA
ITER OERS
PLAID TOWNEDOS
ERA RGEUE
SNELLIEY HERBERT
- DOWN
- Defence's loss of temper about a criminal charge (7).
 - Refusal to accept decline reported (7).
 - Pointing out special offer including one good lot of books (7).
 - Conductor holds back in chosen direction (9).
 - Gossip is spread about people in detached homes (9).
 - Be horrified about nuclear weapon finally dropped in vengeance (9).
 - Duck finds edible plant at bottom of river (7).
 - Gets excited about some people's portion (7).
 - Laughs at exams (5).
 - Give direction to fielder (5).
 - Way to take bad photograph (5).
- Times Two Crossword, page 43

LATEST ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

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FORECAST

General: a showery day across the country but mild everywhere. Across Scotland the showers will merge to give longer spells of rain, but there will be glimpses of sunshine in the southeast at first and in the west later. Elsewhere there will be sunny spells and showers. A few of the showers are likely to be heavy and accompanied by blustery winds. Tonight, most parts will be dry, and the winds light.

London, E Anglia, Midlands, NW

England: sunny and showers. A blustery westerly breeze. Max temp 15C (59F).

SE, Central S & SW England, Wales

Channel Isles: sunny intervals and showers, some heavy and blustery. Moderate southwesterly breeze. Max temp 14C (57F).

E, Central N & NE England

surly and a few showers. A light south-easterly breeze. Max temp 15C (59F).

Isle of Man, NW Scotland, Northern

Islands: cloudy at first with showers. Becoming brighter with occasional showers. A fresh northwesterly wind. Max temp 12C (54F).

Aberdeen, SW & NE Scotland, Glasgow

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy with spells of showery rain. A fresh northwesterly breeze. Max temp 12C (54F).

Belfast, Edinburgh & Dundee

surly intervals at first, but clouding up with showers. A light south-easterly breeze. Max temp 15C (59F).

Republic of Ireland: sunny intervals

and showers. Moderate northwesterly wind. Max temp 12C (54F).

Outlook: drier but more rain will move

into the west and south. The rain in the south will be heavy with strong winds.

24 hrs to 8 pm: 6-10 bright, 11-15 cloudy, 16-20 storm, 21-24 drizzle, 25-28 fog, 29-31 fog, 32-35 rain

Sun, Rain, Wind, Cloud, Snow, Frost, Hail, Thunder, Fog, Ice, Sleet, Drizzle, Shower, Storm, Hurricane, Typhoon, Tornado, Comet, Meteor, Asteroid, Planet, Star, Galaxy, Nebula, Black Hole, White Dwarf, Red Dwarf, Brown Dwarf, Orange Dwarf, Yellow Dwarf, Green Dwarf, Blue Dwarf, Purple Dwarf, Pink Dwarf, Grey Dwarf, Silver Dwarf, Gold Dwarf, Bronze Dwarf, Copper Dwarf, Iron Dwarf, Lead Dwarf, Tin Dwarf, Antimony Dwarf, Arsenic Dwarf, Selenium Dwarf, Tellurium Dwarf, Bismuth Dwarf, Manganese Dwarf, Nickel Dwarf, Cobalt Dwarf, Zinc Dwarf, Cadmium Dwarf, Mercury Dwarf, Platinum Dwarf, Gold Dwarf, Silver Dwarf, Copper Dwarf, Iron Dwarf, Lead Dwarf, Tin Dwarf, Antimony Dwarf, Arsenic Dwarf, Selenium Dwarf, Tellurium Dwarf, Bismuth Dwarf, Manganese Dwarf, Nickel Dwarf, Cobalt Dwarf, Zinc Dwarf, Cadmium Dwarf, Mercury Dwarf, Platinum Dwarf, Gold Dwarf, Silver Dwarf, Copper Dwarf, Iron Dwarf, Lead Dwarf, Tin Dwarf, Antimony Dwarf, Arsenic Dwarf, Selenium Dwarf, Tellurium Dwarf, Bismuth Dwarf, 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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 6 1997

CBI sees ten-year rift with Tories over EMU



Turner: "we are in disagreement"

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS is likely to be at odds with the Conservatives for the next ten years because of William Hague's opposition to economic and monetary union, the head of the Confederation of British Industry says today.

The CBI's statement marks the biggest ever gap between the traditional Conservative supporters in business and the Tory party. It signals the strong likelihood that business will back Labour at the next general election because of its declared readiness to join a single currency.

Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, says today that if the Conservatives maintain the Shadow Cabinet's policy of opposing Britain's participation in EMU for the next

ten years then the CBI and business will be in clear disagreement for that period.

While this steps short of an open disassociation between business and the Conservatives, CBI leaders recognise that the difference between the two on EMU is now so fundamental that the division could become permanent unless the party changes its anti-EMU policy.

Speaking to *The Times* before the CBI's annual conference in Birmingham next week, Mr Turner says of EMU: "We disagree with the Conservative Party's policy, with the Shadow Cabinet majority on monetary union. There is no point beating about the bush on that you take our statement, you take out their statement excluding it for ten years — we are in disagreement."

Questioned whether that disagreement

would last for that time, Mr Turner says: "Yes." He says: "We would prefer that the Conservative Party had not taken that attitude," adding: "We think it is wrong."

The CBI conference, beginning on Monday, will feature appearances by many Cabinet members, including the Prime Minister, and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, as well as Mr Hague, the Conservative Party leader, and Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats.

Mr Turner says that the majority opinion of business and the CBI is in favour, and sees dangers in the Conservative Party's policy. Arguing that there will be times over the next ten years when it will be right for Britain to enter, he says that "therefore there are potential adverse consequences for our businesses and economy if you proceed on

the policy of being definitely out for a period of ten years."

Mr Turner welcomes the debate in the party over EMU and says: "Our preference would be for that debate to be resolved in a position where they kept their options open, rather than exclude their options."

CBI leaders will release poll evidence at the weekend showing clear majority support among business for Britain entering a single currency. Mr Turner today also welcomes the statement from Mr Brown last week making clear Labour's intention to join EMU, though he is critical of the confusion caused by off-the-record briefings on the Government's EMU position.

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BUSINESS
TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDEXES		
FTSE 100	4908.3	(+10.9)
Yield	3.30%	
FTSE All share	2222.11	(+5.19)
Nickel	16448.06	(-52.00)
New York	7888.22	(+18.00)
S&P Composite	942.07	(+1.31)

US RATES		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)
Yield	6.24%	(6.25%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Libor long bill	11 1/2%	(11 1/2%)

STERLING		
New York	1.6777*	(1.6850)
London	1.5785	(1.5856)
DM	2.8872	(2.9010)
FF	6.6688	(6.7164)
Yen	122.85	(121.85)
S index	102.4	(102.9)

DOLLARS		
London	1.7238*	(1.7228)
DM	6.7719*	(6.7700)
FF	1.4079*	(1.4035)
Yen	122.85	(121.85)
S index	104.7	(104.3)

NORTHSEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jan)	819.75	(819.85)

GOLD		
London close	3514.25	(3515.50)

* denotes midday trading price		
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Pound and strike drag BA lower

By JON ASHWORTH

BRITISH AIRWAYS vowed to put its "summer of discontent" behind it yesterday, as it revealed that the cabin crew strike and strong pound had taken a heavy toll of half-year profits.

Operating profits at BA tumbled 33 per cent to £341 million (£512 million) in the six months to September 30. Industrial action cost the airline £125 million, and £128 million was lost to the strong pound.

The sale of interests in US Airways and Galileo International netted an exceptional £157 million, leaving BA's pre-tax profits down 8.5 per cent at £430 million (£470 million).

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, said underlying profitability had risen 14 per cent. Baggage performance had been unsatisfactory, but had shown "a substantial improvement" in the last seven weeks. Problems concerning lost and delayed baggage were linked to new security measures and the phasing-in of new equipment at Heathrow.

Mr Ayling said relations with unions had improved, since the industrial dispute. He said: "There is a very strong feeling round the table that the summer is now behind us. We now have to move forward."

BA's business efficiency programme would deliver £200 million in savings this year, Mr Ayling said. "The future of our airline depends on our ability to compete."

He confirmed that BA was looking into launching a no-frills European carrier, but said no final decision had been taken. Earlier, Stelios Haji-Ioannou, founder and chairman of EasyJet, the low-cost airline, said he would consider a High Court challenge to any such move.

A record 21.8 million passengers flew with BA during the six months — about 120,000 a day. BA turnover was £4.46 billion (£4.39 billion). Earnings per share, fully diluted, were 28.8p (35.5p). There is an interim dividend of 4.7p (4.25p) a share. *Tempus*, page 28



Ayling: looking ahead

Mayflower considers bidding for Vickers

By ADAM JONES

VICKERS, which last week put its Rolls-Royce motor cars business up for sale, yesterday forced Mayflower Corporation into the open by saying the engineer was preparing a hostile bid.

Mayflower refused to deny the Vickers claim, admitting in a statement that it was "considering all its options, which may or may not include an offer for Vickers".

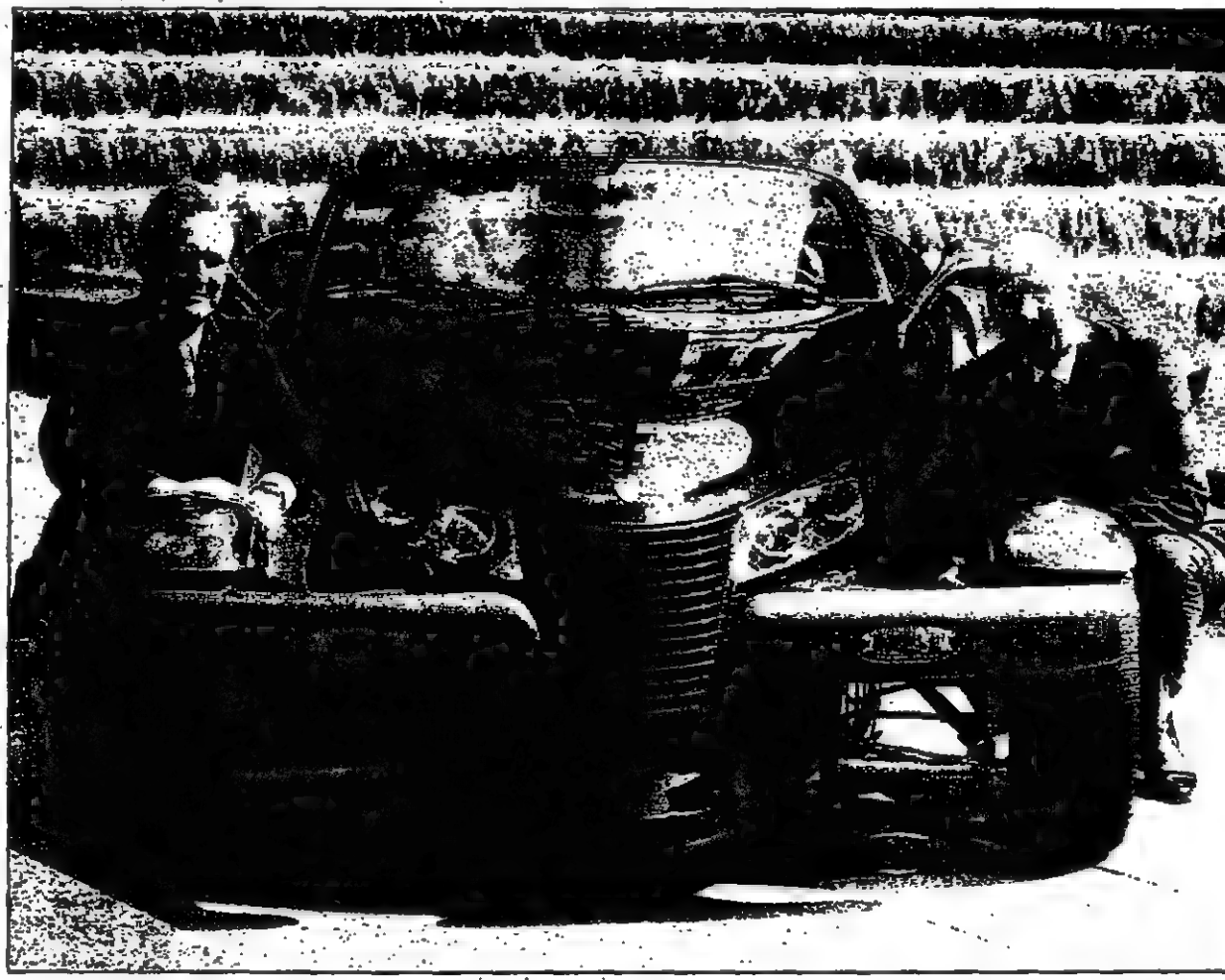
The bid had a dramatic effect on Mayflower, cutting its share price by 20p to 184.1p and its market capitalisation to just £466 million. Vickers shares rose from 227.1p to 248p, pushing up its market valuation to £830 million.

Vickers, which has been proceeding with a disposal programme designed to slim it to three core activities, has been on bid alert recently after takeover speculation.

It is thought to have discovered Mayflower's interest on Monday. It is also thought that Sir Colin Chandler, the chairman of Vickers, subsequently issued an ultimatum to Rupert Hambro, Mayflower's chairman, offering private talks if Mayflower ruled out a hostile bid. No such commitment was given, it is understood, and Vickers issued a statement to the market yesterday afternoon.

Mayflower is understood to have its eye on Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, which went on sale last week. Vickers has given it sales memorandum to Mayflower, which is supplying car bodies for the new model Rolls-Royce and Bentley. It alluded to this link in the statement, saying: "Mayflower already has close relationships with Rolls-Royce."

Mayflower is also thought to want Vickers' Cosworth engine and propulsion technology divisions. Industry sources were suggesting yesterday that, if a bid for the whole company succeeded, it would not keep



David Donnelly, left, a Mayflower executive, and John Simpson already supply Rolls-Royce with car bodies

the defence division, the products of which include the Challenger 2 tank.

Mayflower is advised by BZW, the investment banking arm of Barclays which is in the process of being broken up. BZW was also adviser to BBA, the car components group, when it prepared an audacious bid for Lucas, its larger rival. BBA eventually abandoned its planned bid after news of it leaked out.

When Vickers said it was selling Rolls-Royce Motor Cars it said the business required a dedicated carmaker

as owner. It said the investment required to develop new models was too much for a more broadly based company that could not utilise economies of scale.

BMW and Daimler-Benz duly became favourites to take over Rolls-Royce, which has a price tag estimated at £350 million to £500 million. BMW is supplying engines to the new Rolls-Royce and Bentley model. Daimler-Benz is developing its own luxury marque, Maybach, but a bid has been thought possible by observers.

One City analyst suggested

that Mayflower believes it can grow Rolls-Royce by offering more versions of a particular model. The new owners of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars will still have to satisfy Rolls-Royce, the aero engines group that owns the name. Without its approval for ongoing use of the marque, the carmaker's value would plummet.

Mayflower and its chief executive, John Simpson, have enjoyed a meteoric rise since the group was created from a toy company "shell", called Triangle Trust, in 1989. Contracts now include making the

body of the Rover MGF and the Land Rover Discovery. In the first half of 1997, it recorded profits of £16.1 million before tax, up from £10.2 million a year earlier, on a turnover of £192 million. It has recently started to diversify into aircraft design.

The group stumbled last year, however, when its £172 million bid for Clevite, a US company that makes suspension products, was trumped by Tenneco of the US.

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Figures complicate Bank rate decision

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England faces a tough interest rate decision today after data published yesterday showed the manufacturing and service sectors of economy growing at two very different speeds.

Manufacturing sector growth remains subdued with output rising just 0.2 per cent in October, leaving the annual growth rate at 1.5 per cent compared with 1.8 per cent in August.

But service sector growth accelerated sharply for the first time since May, according to a Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply survey.

The Bank of England monetary policy committee completes its monthly meeting this morning with economists forecasting that the Bank will shy away from a rate rise after recent stock market turbulence. But the consensus remains that the continuing evidence of strong service growth, combined with some signs of resilience in the manufacturing sector, will mean a further quarter-point rise before the end of the year.

Claran Barr, UK economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "Taken

together the data paints a pretty punchy picture which is too much for comfort for the Bank of England."

The slight improvement in manufacturing output was led by strong growth in investment goods output, which economists said boded well for coming months. But this was offset by sharp falls in the output of wood and wood products and base metals.

Quarterly manufacturing growth, at 0.6 per cent, would, if maintained, leave the sector growing at around trend level despite sterling's strength. But overall industrial production declined 0.2 per cent, and the annual rate slipped to 1.5 per cent from 2.4 per cent in August as utilities output declined.

The CIPS survey showed overall business activity rising sharply in October, while new business also picked up for the first time since May. There were signs that companies are starting to struggle to match the pace of expansion, with a rise in the number of businesses reporting in staff shortages.

Falkland Islands ventures to float

By ADAM JONES

THE Falkland Islands Group, the closest thing the South Atlantic territory has to a conglomerate, is to be listed on the London Stock Exchange, its debt-ridden parent company confirmed yesterday.

Anglo United, the fuels group, is to spin off its Falklands activities into a listed holding company, Falkland Islands Holdings, if shareholders agree. Its interests on the islands include property, fishing support services, the Upland Goose hotel, six shops, a Land Rover dealership and a shipping line. Because of the islands' size, the ventures face limited competition, often from just one other company.

The Falkland Islands Company, one of three businesses in the Falkland Islands Group, was incorporated under royal charter in 1851. It was first listed on the London Stock Exchange in 1962, before being bought by Dundee, Perth and London Securities in 1972.

The Falkland businesses made an operating profit of £1.3 million last year on turnover of £10.8 million. Anglo

United acquired them when it bought Coalite, the smokeless fuel manufacturer, for £500 million in 1989 in a highly-leveraged deal that eventually brought Anglo-United to its knees.

Shareholders will receive one share in the new company for every 300 in Anglo United. The new company, with £2 million in debt, is expected to enter the official list on January 19.

It is not clear how much the Falklands companies would be valued at on flotation. John Gainham, Anglo United's chief executive, said that he did not know what effect any future oil discoveries would have on them. The Falklands will be the centre of significant exploration from next spring.

Mr Gainham and Roger Wallace, another Anglo United director, will become owners of the residual Anglo businesses if the share swap is approved. Mr Gainham said the company's enormous debts would mean that the shell would remain valueless.

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Zinfandel?

Wasn't he an Astronaut?

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Technical hitch halts share dealings

By RICHARD MILES
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CITY traders were left twiddling their thumbs for 45 minutes yesterday morning after a technical fault brought down the London Stock Exchange's new order-driven share dealing system.

Sets came on line as normal at 8.30am but screens froze within minutes because of a telecommunications glitch. Unable to see prices on the UK's top 100 stocks, dealers were forced to abandon trading until the resumption of service at 9.15am.

The Stock Exchange blamed the disruption on a faulty processor in the system supporting the London Market Information Link, which channels price data from Sets to dealing screens across the City.

A spokeswoman said it was the first problem with LMIL since its introduction in 1994. She added that there had been no breakdowns in Sets, the order-driven system that has been much criticised by some brokers and dealers.

Martin Lupton, of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said: "We couldn't get any data so we didn't do anything. One gets these sort of glitches from time to time, but it wasn't terminal and the market wasn't particularly volatile."

The jury is out on whether the first problem with LMIL since its introduction in 1994, she added that there had been no breakdowns in Sets, the order-driven system that has been much criticised by some brokers and dealers.

Dealers continue to complain about unusually wide spreads on some stocks, especially at the lower end of the index where liquidity is much lower. Many traders say it will take at least three months to get to grips with the order-driven system.



Steven Kent, left, and Andrew Vaughn forecast 1997 operating profits of at least £3.6 million for Workplace Technologies

Workplace to float with £50m value

By MARTIN BARROW

WORKPLACE Technologies, one of the UK's leading independent computer network integrators, will be valued at £50.7 million when its shares begin trading on the stock market next week, with the shares priced at 175p.

The flotation, by way of a placing sponsored by NatWest Markets, will raise £21.7 million, including £7.65 million for the company, formed via a management buyout from ICL in September 1995.

The directors, including Andrew Vaughn, managing director, and Steven Kent, finance director, forecast operating profits of not less than £3.6 million for 1997, up from £2.5 million in 1996.

After flotation, directors will own 12.1 per cent of the issued share capital. Trading in the shares is due to begin on November 12.

Reuters may charge clients to clear 'millennium bug'

By FRASER NELSON

REUTERS, the online information company, is to charge many of its institutional clients for correcting the millennium bug for correcting the millennium bug that threatens to paralyse its equipment in the year 2000.

The company, which yesterday detailed its approach to the problem, said that clients who need their computers changed overnight or at the weekend could be sent a bill for the privilege.

The move marks a distinct break from the industry norm, where companies usually agree that their customers

should not be asked pay for the supplier's failure to plan for the date change.

Michael Hudson, marketing director, said that the majority of smaller clients would not be charged as the Reuters technicians would update their computers on top of other upgrades. However, he said urgent call-outs would be another matter.

"In a trading room, everything has to be done quickly and some of our clients will want it done overnight so that when they come back in the

morning, everything is tickety-boo," he said. "Their people are skilled negotiators—that's what they do in their trading room all day long—so there will inevitably be some discussions about the fees."

The company, which started work on its millennium project last year, also declined to take the usual step of saying its computers will all work in time for the date change.

Mr Hudson said the problem was too complex, as the company relies on information gathered from 5,000 dif-

ferent suppliers and has a much more complicated task.

The City remained nervous about its prospects as the company refused to put a figure to the cost of the problem. It will bear the costs of sending packages to 50,000 of its clients by recorded delivery and making 100 of its 1,000 computer programs obsolete.

The details emerged as CRT, Britain's largest computer recruitment company, said it would recruit 2,000 staff to help it to combat the millennium bug. It is offering to send

novices on a £10,000 computer course and pay them between £10,000 and £40,000 a year.

The company, which already employs 2,200 staff and has arranged placements for 5,000, is spending £70 million on the millennium bug and has promised to find jobs for its new recruits when the problem passes.

The millennium problem will affect computers which read years by two digits only, and will throw up an error message when told that "00" comes after the year "99".

Ofcom attacks WorldCom

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

WORLDCom, the US telecoms company that challenged BT's global expansion with a bid for MCI, its intended partner, has been attacked by the UK regulator for holding back customer information.

Don Cruickshank said customers were being disadvantaged by its failure to reveal quality of service information. He highlighted WorldCom, along with Colt, Eurobell and Global One as companies that

have not provided quality of service information voluntarily. Mr Cruickshank said: "A failure to provide quality of service information puts customers at a disadvantage and may undermine the efforts of the majority of the UK telecoms industry to enhance this already valuable, voluntary initiative to improve information given to customers."

WorldCom said it would provide the information in the new year.

Accountancy chief quits

By ROBERT BRUCE

ANDREW COLQUHOUN, chief executive of the English Institute of Chartered Accountants, has resigned, leaving the organisation in crisis.

Chris Laine, the ICA's president, read its council meeting a statement that disclosed that Mr Colquhoun had resigned on Tuesday and accepted "a voluntary severance package". Although the pay-off's size was not given, it is thought to approach £400,000.

Colquhoun was on his way out after it became clear that the independent Gerrard report into the ICA's affairs had pointed the way towards a more active director-general post. However, matters dragged on for more than a month while Mr Colquhoun and senior officers held secret talks and the world outside and most institute staff were told that he was "absent, ill".

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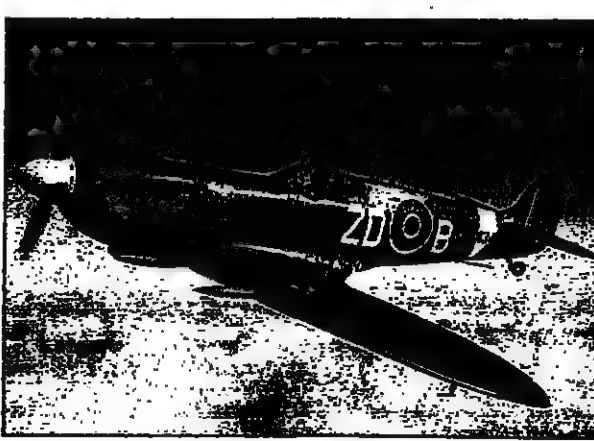
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Stationery House

Milestones in the life of Vickers

Chris Ayres looks back at the history of one of the world's most famous defence groups, now under fire from Mayflower



The Spitfire was a mark of British wartime resilience

VICKERS was born in 1828 as a Sheffield steel business, under the name of Naylor, Hutchinson, Vickers & Company. The driving force behind the company was Edward Vickers, a brilliant engineer. In the 1860s, his two sons, Albert and Tom, took over the company.

The renamed Vickers Sons & Company went on to become one of the world's most successful engineering and armaments companies. It played a key role in the technical history of the 20th century and became an international symbol of Britain's manufacturing excellence, before the industry's decline in the 1970s.

In 1905, the company built the world's first submarine, a valuable blueprint for the vessels used in the First World War. Vickers also produced the world's first production tank.

The company made history again in 1919, when Sir John Alcock and Lieutenant Arthur Brown used an aircraft manufactured by the company to make the world's first non-stop flight across the Atlantic. In the 1920s, Vickers strength-

ened its business by merging with Armstrong Whitworth, the rival engineering and armaments group, and in 1929 it built Britain's first airship.

During the Second World War, Vickers designed and built the Spitfire aircraft,

which made its maiden flight in 1936 and went on to become an icon of British resilience. In the 1950s and 1960s, Vickers saw Governments fight over the nationalisation and privatisation of its steel operations. During the height

of the Cold War, in the 1960s, the company built Britain's first nuclear submarine, HMS Dreadnought, and launched its first range of airliners.

Vickers expanded by forming a medical division and an office equipment division - which it later sold - and in the 1980s bought Rolls-Royce, the carmaker. The 100,000th vehicle was completed in 1985.

Vickers expanded again in 1986 with the purchase of Royal Ordnance in Leeds, which it converted into a tank factory modelled on its plant in Newcastle. Two years later, Vickers won the contract to develop the Challenger 2 tank.

Sir Colin Chandler was appointed managing director of the company in 1990, the year in which Cosworth Engineering, the racing engine-maker, was bought.

Orders flooded in for Challenger tanks, and Sir Colin became chief executive. In 1994, the company revealed its collaboration with BMW for the next generation of Bentley and Rolls-Royce models. Today, Vickers employs more than 10,000 people, and has sales of about £1.2 billion.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Pension managers lag smaller rivals

THE performance of Britain's biggest pension fund managers has lagged that of their smaller rivals in the past nine months, according to a survey by CAPS, the actuarial consultancy. Mercury Asset Management, which manages more than £4.6 billion of client money in its main fund, was placed 68 out of 71 with a return of 14.5 per cent, compared to 23.5 per cent at Baillie Gifford, the best-performing house.

Schroders and PDM fared little better, placed 61st and 64th, respectively. CAPS attributed the poor showing of the big pension fund managers to their decision to go underweight in equities. Garmore, which was placed 65th, more than doubled its third-quarter exposure to cash, said CAPS.

Colloids plant for US

ALLIED COLLOIDS GROUP, the UK chemicals company, is to invest £45 million in a major expansion in America. Colloids is to build a new cationic monomer plant at the Arkansas site of CPS Chemicals, the business it bought in January 1997, at a cost of £25 million. In addition, a plant with capacity for 20,000 tonnes per year of powder-grade flocculant will be built at Colloids's Virginia site at a cost of £20 million. Colloids's shares rose 14½p to 117p.

Barclays strike day

BARCLAYS staff will stage their third one-day strike on Friday in a continuing dispute over pay and pensions. Unifi, which represents 45,000 Barclays workers, said it anticipated a good turnout from its members. Two earlier strikes in October resulted in the 24-hour closure of about 200 branches. Unifi and the Banking Insurance & Finance Union (Bifin) argue that the introduction of a new performance-related grading system will result in a pay and pensions freeze for 25,000 workers.

ITT reviews Hilton bid

THE board of ITT Corp, the leisure group that is the subject of a takeover battle, met last night to review for the first time an offer from Hilton Hotels. The ITT directors, who were labelled "incompetent" by Hilton, could voluntarily hand over control of the entire group as early as next week after fighting tooth-and-nail for ten months. Shareholders look increasingly likely to elect a Hilton-picked board at the annual meeting next Wednesday. Hilton raised its bid this week to counter a rival offer from Starwood Lodgings.

NatWest's euro move

A NEW bank account for British businesses that want to use the euro currency is unveiled today by NatWest. The new account, with a range of euro products and services, will be available early next year ahead of the 1999 official launch of the euro. Companies will be able to arrange loans in euros, make deposits in the new currency and use the accounts for their international business. Among those expected to use the euro account are exporters that currently have separate accounts in German marks and French francs for their European trade.

Daniels buys Sun-Ripe

CYRIL REED, chairman of S. Daniels, is making his seventh acquisition since taking over the running of the small food manufacturing company two years ago. Daniels is paying up to £2.85 million for Sun-Ripe, which supplies fruit salads and fruit juices to sandwich shops and hotels, including chains run by Granada and Holiday Inns. The full price depends on Sun-Ripe making a £282,000 pre-tax profit this year; it made £88,000 last year on sales of £6 million. Mr Reed said that Sun-Ripe fit well with Johnsons Fresh Products, bought last year.

Test results lift Cortecs

SHARES in Cortecs International jumped 26p, to 202½p, yesterday as investors had their first chance to respond to positive news at the drug development company's annual meeting on Tuesday evening. Glen Travers, chairman, reported "very encouraging" results from trials of a capsule version of insulin on six diabetes patients. Lower blood sugar levels were seen in those taking the Cortecs drug. "We believe these early data present the real possibility of improving therapy for diabetes," Mr Travers said.

Robert Walters expands

ROBERT WALTERS, the UK recruitment consultancy serving the finance and IT sectors, is expanding in Australia with the acquisition of ACL Tristar and Tristar Personnel for a total of A\$12.67 million (£5.36 million). Tristar, based in Melbourne, is one of Australia's leading IT recruitment companies, with clients including IBM, NCR, BP, Fujitsu and Coles Meyer. In the year to June 30 the business earned an adjusted operating profit of A\$1.38 million on sales of A\$37.82 million.

Bank		Bank		Bank	
Australia	2.48	Bank	2.48	Bank	2.48
Austria	2.48	Barclays	2.48	Barclays	2.48
Belgium	2.48	Bank	2.48	Bank	2.48
Canada	2.48	Bank	2.48	Bank	2.48
Cyprus	2.48	Bank	2.48	Bank	2.48
Denmark	2.48	Bank	2.48	Bank	2.48
France	2.48	Bank	2.48	Bank	2.48
Germany	2.48	Bank	2.48	Bank	2.48
Greece	2.48	Bank	2.48	Bank	2.48
Hong Kong	2.48	Bank	2.48	Bank	2.48
Ireland	2.48	Bank	2.48	Bank	2.48
Italy	2.48	Bank	2.48	Bank	2.48
Japan	2.48	Bank	2.48	Bank	2.48

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All the president's men?



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The mouthpieces of the CBI have a tendency to indicate that they speak on behalf of British business. This is not entirely true. In fact, on some occasions, they seem in danger of voicing the thoughts of just a few near professional committee-sitters. In his latest utterances on the subject of business and the Conservative Party, Adair Turner may well be summarizing the views of important CBI members, but it is highly doubtful that they all feel so strongly on the EMU issue that they foresee a potential ten-year split from the Tories. Some CBI members are actually likely to feel the opposite, and to feel it sufficiently strongly to be wondering whether they really ought to be continuing to pay their subscriptions to this organisation.

Reconciling the views encompassed within a sprawling membership organisation is the perennial problem for those who choose to work for them. Actors may be well advised never to work with children or animals, but working for a committee can drive many sensible beings to consider a radical change of career. Mr Turner, the CBI's Director-General, faces that problem with large, for the CBI is riddled with committees. The most important is the President's Committee, a 40-strong body of big names atop which sits the omnipresent Sir Colin Marshall. Sir Colin has left few in doubt of his pro-Europe and single

currency views: last week he was putting the good citizens of New York in the picture. Among the members of his committee is Unilever chairman Niall Fitzgerald, whose enthusiastic espousal of the single currency cause has enlivened many a business gathering. The strength of his feelings on the subject are such as to deter most of his listeners from daring to dissent.

Mr Turner may have discerned from his sessions with these, his more vociferous employers, that there is the view of the business community. From this position, he may have taken it upon himself to predict an inevitable rift with the Tory party. But this is to ignore the fact that, outside the confines of the President's Committee, there are many business leaders who are not unhappy with the William Hague line on EMU.

Next week, at the CBI's own conference, this may become apparent. Sir Stanley Kalms, the chairman of Dixons, is bravely going to speak in the same EMU debate as Niall Fitzgerald. Sir Stanley does not share the views of the president and, as a stalwart supporter of the Conservative Party, it is unlikely that he fears the decade of division that

Mr Turner foresees.

Those who share Sir Stanley's views rather than those of Mr Turner may not be brave enough to voice them in Birmingham next week, but they have the weapon of the wallet at hand. The Institute of Directors has qualms about EMU and has voiced them. Maybe retaining both memberships will seem increasingly hard to justify — and the choice of which to continue might not be automatic.

Mayflower offers view of new world

Mr Colin Chandler is probably tempted to tell Mayflower Corporation to "get your tanks off my lawn". It seems that he regards Mayflower as little more than a bunch of parvenu panel beaters, and it is Vickers that has the tanks. But the panel beaters have hit on the bright idea of selling those, and

the rest of Vickers' dismal defence businesses, to someone like GKN, to win the prize of Rolls-Royce.

On the face of it Mayflower has an attractive proposition. John Simpson, captain of the Mayflower, may look like a Russian baddie in a James Bond movie, but that is probably an advantage in the motor trade. And Rupert Hambro, his chairman, knows how to spot an opportune move: note the timing and price level at which he sold Hambro Magan to National Westminster.

Together the pair have worked wonders in turning the old Triang toy maker into one of the most dynamic companies in the motor sector. By comparison, the performance of Vickers looks sickly.

Mayflower can fly the "keep Rolls-Royce British" flag with some confidence. The company also has big ideas for the Cosworth motor racing side and the propulsion businesses of Vickers.

The question is whether it can afford to do all of this. Even selling the tanks would leave Mayflower having to fund a deal worth double its £550 million market capitalisation. And Vickers has earmarked a massive investment programme for the new generation of Rolls-Royces.

Mayflower argues that it can update the Rolls-Royce range much more cheaply, tweaking the design rather than making wholesale changes. After all, Porsche has managed to keep its 911 range going for decades with a similar policy. People buy Rolls-Royces as status symbols, and the marque is having a record year despite its ageing designs.

But BMW and Mercedes Benz did not build world-beating brands by merely tweaking designs. They spend hundreds of millions on development so that their cars hold their position in the market. Sir Colin will claim that Rolls-

Royce really needs to be owned by a car manufacturer willing to invest heavily in the brand. But his strategy of selling RR to concentrate on defence concedes the pressing need for the rationalisation of the defence industry. Mayflower can argue that it's intention is merely to help to accomplish that by another route.

An unappealing derivative

Derivatives can be a tricky business: just ask NatWest Markets, Barings and their scared City colleagues. So members of BZW's equities derivatives team should not have been too surprised to learn on Tuesday that their operation has been excluded from the proposed deal with Credit Suisse First Boston.

Barclays made the reason for the derivatives team's exclusion quite plain. Any tie-up with CSFB would have resulted in a 100 per cent overlap, said chief executive Martin Taylor. His official line now is to seek a separate buyer for this awkward bit of BZW.

But traders yesterday said it

was highly unlikely that Barclays would find anyone with a serious interest, not least because a bidder would need a crystal ball to know what was being bought. It can take years for any problems to emerge from the woodwork, as NatWest found. Added to this are strong indications that BZW's derivatives team has had a rocky 12 months. With no significant presence in the US market, it has gone long on warrants at a time of great market volatility. The word on the street is that BZW might have caught a cold in Hong Kong over the past few weeks.

Barclays may end up wrapping equities derivatives into Barclays Capital, the debt business. More probably, the bank will simply close it down. Some of the BZW team have already lined up other jobs, although one bank is known to have turned up its nose at the candidates.

Slow reaction

FOR a company in the business of selling information and technology, Reuters is emerging as disconcertingly slow in realising the potential problems inherent in the dawn of the year 2000. Its hopes of persuading customers to carry the cost look equally inept and doomed to disappointment. The Millennium time bomb is a reality, and Reuters's refusal to try and quantify the cost of defusing it does nothing to reassure investors.

Whitbread considers overseas expansion

By Dominic Walsh

WHITBREAD, the brewing and leisure group, may export some of its UK hotel and restaurant brands to continental Europe.

Unveiling the group's half-year results yesterday, David Thomas, chief executive, said: "We are looking hard at taking Travel Inn and David Lloyd Leisure overseas. We know that the consumer in Northern Europe will be attracted to them, but it's a question of whether we can get the returns given that property prices and labour costs are higher."

Mr Thomas hinted that the Café Rouge concept might also do well in Germany, where Whitbread already has more than 60 steak outlets under the Churrasco and... Mareo brands.

However, Mr Thomas emphasised that the UK would remain the focus, and that its existing portfolio of brands had sufficient growth potential to fulfill Whitbread's ambitions for the next three to five years.

In the half year to August 30 the group forked out £226 million on capital expenditure, opening 101 new retail outlets at a cost of £94 million. The full-year target is for 250 new outlets and a total capex of £450 million. "We are opening a new hotel every ten days and a new restaurant every four days," said Mr Thomas. "We'll be creating 6,000 jobs during the course of this year."



David Thomas will look abroad if the returns are right

Rapid expansion allied to tighter cost controls helped the group to an 11.6 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits before exceptional, at £198 million, on turnover 8.4 per cent higher

at £1.63 billion. Return on capital has improved from 13.5 per cent to 14.2 per cent.

All the company's divisions posted double-digit profit rises with the exception of Whit-

bread Pub Partnerships, its portfolio of tied leased pubs. Operating profit dipped 3 per cent to £31.7 million, largely because of the disposal of a large chunk of the bottom end of the estate.

Mr Thomas admitted that he might consider selling the business if he was offered "a very, very good price", but he added: "It's a very good cash generator, a very good outlet for our beer brands and a shop window for our brands."

Even brewing performed ahead of expectations, lifting profits 13 per cent to £28.9 million on turnover 2 per cent ahead at £527 million. Beer volumes improved 2.4 per cent in a market down by 0.8 per cent, and Whitbread lifted its market share to an all-time high of 15.6 per cent. The best brand was Stella Artois, which grew 28 per cent by volume.

One of the biggest successes has been the Travel Inn budget hotel brand, which has left Granada's Forte Travelodge trailing in its wake. It currently has 167 units, with another 47 sites in the pipeline, and has lifted average occupancy to its highest ever level of 87 per cent — four points up on this time last year.

Earnings per share rose from 27.1p to 31.12p and an interim dividend of 6.82p (6.25p) will be paid on January 19. There is a scrip dividend alternative.

Times, page 28

Ladbroke sells hotels for £50m

By Dominic Walsh

LADBROKE, owner of the Hilton International chain, is to reap more than £50 million from the sale of three of the unbranded three-star hotels put up for sale this year.

The group confirmed yesterday that it had exchanged contracts to sell the Plaza on Hyde Park in London to Regent Corporation, part of Malaysian United Industries, for £44 million in cash. The 402-bedroom hotel is valued at £43.2 million by Ladbroke.

Ladbroke has also sold the Balmer Lawn Hotel in the New Forest for £3.4 million and is close to selling the Linton Lodge Hotel in Oxford for just under £5 million through Christie & Co, the agent.

ScottishPower in competition talks

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

SCOTTISHPower is to hold last-minute talks with the electricity regulator over his proposals for competition in domestic supply.

The meetings take place only days before Stephen Littlechild, head of Oftec, will formalise his plans and reflect concern in the industry over the implementation of competition from next year.

Ian Robertson, ScottishPower chief executive, said that a number of issues "need further discussion", but that he believed that solutions could be found.

Offer needs to secure electricity companies' agreement on licence proposals and price controls for supply. Any rebellion would threaten the timetable for competition, intended to start rolling out in phases by next April.

ScottishPower said that

competition in electricity and gas is central to its strategy as a multi-utility. The company, which generates and distributes electricity in Scotland and owns Manweb, the northwest England regional electricity company, and Southern Water, aims to win 15 per cent of the UK electricity market by 2000. It wants 12 per cent of the gas market and 10 per cent of the Scottish telecom market.

ScottishPower pre-tax profits rose 44 per cent to £240 million in the half year to September 30, boosted by the contribution of Southern Water and by disposals. Underlying profit growth was about 15 per cent. A 6.8p interim dividend, up 10 per cent, is due on March 6. Dr Eileen Marshall, ScottishPower's chief economic adviser, is to head the review into electricity trading announced by the Government.

Colt plans to expand as sales leap

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

COLT TELECOM, the telecoms business with operations in London, Paris and Germany, is planning a £190 million spending programme backed by the issue of new shares and bonds.

The company yesterday announced plans to raise £90 million in shares and £100 million in notes to finance development and expansion. By the end of this year, Colt, which operates in Frankfurt, Munich and Hamburg, will offer services in Berlin and plans to go to Zurich, Brussels, Madrid and other German markets next year.

Yesterday Colt reported a 144 per cent jump in sales for the nine months to September 30 at £55 million. Operating costs rose from £10.3 million to £24.9 million. Pre-tax losses in the third quarter were £9.1 million (£2.1 million).

Microsoft to link up with US West

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

MICROSOFT, which is facing possible draconian fines from the US Government for alleged monopoly abuses, is tightening its grip on the future of the computer sector with a \$1 billion (£600 million) alliance with US West, America's third largest cable television company.

The deal, an acquisition of 6 per cent of US West stock, is said to be scheduled for announcement next month.

In June, Microsoft agreed to pay \$1 billion for an 11 per cent stake in Comcast, another cable company. A \$1 billion deal with Telecommunications, another cable company, is under negotiation.

Bill Gates, Microsoft's executive chairman, believes the cable network is ideally suited to becoming the delivery mechanism for high-speed electronic commerce and com-

munication. By buying into the sector now, Mr Gates is attempting to win control of the software used in digital television set-top boxes needed to link the television to the Internet.

US West last month announced it was spinning off its cable television interests to concentrate on its local and long-distance telephone business. The move was seen as an admission that the merging of the telephone sector and the television sector has become unrealistic.

Microsoft will next month face the US Justice Department in a federal court over licensing agreements of its Internet software. Investigators are alleging that Microsoft is acting to protect its monopoly and are seeking a \$1 million-a-day fine if the company fails to act.

Bovis promises 60% advance

By Paul Durman

BOVIS HOMES, the house-building company that P&O is floating, is setting out to attract City investors with a promise of a 60 per cent rise in this year's profits.

Bovis, which P&O has owned since 1974, is forecasting a pre-tax profit of £37.1 million, up from £23.3 million last year. This year's total is ten times the amount Bovis made only three years ago.

Malcolm Harris, chief executive, believes the housing market will continue to make steady progress next year, helped by stable interest rates, falling unemployment and earnings that are rising faster than house prices. He said Bovis's large landbank will enable it to avoid having to pay high prices for development land.

It has been suggested that Bovis will command a value of

between £250 million and £300 million. With earnings of £25.4 million, the lower figure would imply a price-earnings ratio of less than 10, significantly less than similar up-market housebuilders.

Bovis is being floated via a placing that will include a large issue of new shares to repay an interest-free loan of £176 million to P&O which will not retain a holding in Bovis. The housebuilder recently paid a £29 million dividend to its parent.

Mr Harris and six executive directors will use bonuses totalling £300,000 to acquire shares at the placing price. They also intend to apply for further shares.

Bovis completed 1,560 sales in the first nine months of the year at an average price of £95,000. It managed 1,355 in the same period last year.

Sanderson takes over rival

By Fraser Nelson

SANDERSON BRAMALL is to become one of the country's top five motor dealers after agreeing a £37.4 million takeover bid of Charles Sidney, a publicly-quoted rival.

The company, which is currently ranked ninth in the UK, will take over Charles Sidney's Mercedes and Toyota-Lexus dealerships in North Yorkshire and Scotland, creating an enlarged group with annual sales approaching £90 million and profits of £19 million. Raymond Edwards, who became chief

executive of Charles Sidney four years ago, is to leave the company with a £200,000 payoff, after agreeing to sell his remaining shares for £180,000.

Sanderson Bramall is offering a combination of cash and shares that values each Sidney share at 90p. Yesterday the shares, which have lost around 30 per cent of their value over the past 12 months, rose 1p to 86p. Sanderson Bramall shares rose 5p to 226p.

Tim Kluczkowski, analyst at Granville Davis, said: "This deal definitely catapults Sanderson into the premier league of car dealers, with the likes of

Reg Vardy and Dixon Motors. It has been looking to increase its exposure to prestige marques for some time now, and this deal seems an excellent fit."

Other analysts said that the deal makes better strategic sense than a takeover of Appleyard, which Sanderson was considering last summer. Charles Sidney's Mercedes distribution business is considered to be the jewel in the company's portfolio, as the German car manufacturer intends to keep down dealerships and expand existing outlets. The deal marks the end of Charles Sidney's chequered history as a quoted company.



STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL GEMIN

Pilkington recovery hopes shattered by French rival

HOPES that Pilkington, Britain's biggest glass-maker, could sustain its recent recovery back after Saint-Gobain, its main rival, announced plans to begin production in this country.

Saint-Gobain said it intended to begin production of float glass in Britain before the end of the century. Brokers said this would force Pilkington to scrap the recent price rises and cause further overcapacity.

Pilkington responded with a fall of 17p to 131p, as a massive 43.3 million shares changed hands. Paolo Scaroni, the recently appointed chief executive, used this as an opportunity to purchase a maiden holding of 300,000 shares at 132p. But his act of faith, little like with some of the big broking houses, which began issuing "sell" recommendations to shareholders.

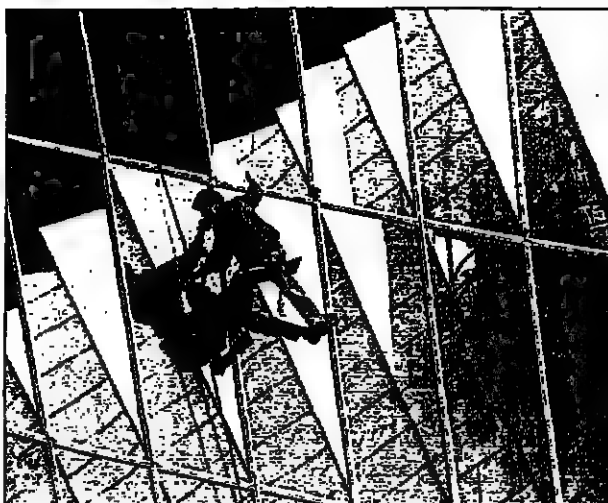
Yesterday's modest rise in the FTSE 100 index of 10.9 to 4,908.3 belied another volatile performance by share prices generally. It all began with a breakdown in Sess, the new order driven trading system, which prevented brokers from inputting prices at the start of the day. This led to big swings in prices as the spreads widened.

At one stage the index was ahead 50 points, but this soon gave way to a fall of 34 points before an opening rise on Wall Street enabled the London market to put in a late rally. A respectable 819 million shares had traded by the close of business.

Allied Colloids put in a late run, jumping 14p to 17p after the company moved to quell rumours that the effects of a strong pound would force it to issue a profits warning soon. The group said trading had been in line with expectations and it was embarking on a major expansion programme.

Vickers was among the best performing shares among the top 250 companies with a leap of 20p, or 9.01 per cent, to 248p after it emerged that the company had been told it may soon find itself on the receiving end of a hostile bid from Mayflower Corporation, the fast growing engineering group, down 15p to 189p.

Mayflower, which makes panels for the MG sports car, is said to be keen to acquire Rolls-Royce, the luxury motor car manufacturer. Instead of paying the expected £400 mil-



Pilkington shares fell 17p as competition became clearer

lion asking price, it may be pondering the idea of bidding for the entire company, which at these levels is worth £862 million. Mayflower these days carries a price tag of £515 million. Only last week Vickers announced that it had put Rolls-Royce up for sale and was expected to attract bidders from around the world. Rolls-Royce, the aero engine maker, drew strength

from a "buy" recommendation from HSBC James Capel, the broker, to rise 6p to 222p.

Reckitt & Coleman continued to suffer from its exposure to growth nations in Asia and Latin America with a loss of 13p to 87p. The shares have fallen from a peak of £10.27 in recent weeks.

Elsewhere in the engineering sector, M&S fell 18p to 478p amid sugges-

tions that Cazenove, the company's own broker, had switched its recommendation for the shares from a "buy" to a "hold".

Stock shortages continue to drive Sharehouse sharply higher, with the price finishing 7p better at 235p on turnover of 2.25 million shares.

Marks & Spencer continued to reflect on a disappointing set of interim figures on Tuesday, with a fall of 13p to 587p. Next was up another 6p to 740p.

Earlier this week M&S announced details of a £21 billion expansion programme. One company expected to benefit is Northern Foods, one of M&S's main suppliers.

Its shares rose 7p to 238p. Powergen Group, Britain's biggest vending machine operator, rose 3p to 143p after landing a string of major contracts with a number of blue-chip companies. The deals have a combined value of £4 million.

Barclays Bank touched £15.55 before closing 31p dearer at £15.31 in spite of its apparent failure to sell its £2.5 billion investment banking arm as a single unit. Credit Suisse First Boston apparently wants to buy the equity side of the business, but not the derivatives side. Brokers are hopeful that a deal can be concluded before the weekend.

Encouraging results from trials of its new insulin treatment, Macmillan, enabled Corros International to stand out with a leap of 27p to 203p.

GILT-EDGED: Bond prices across Europe took their lead from the overnight sell-off in New York, with prices drifting lower in thin trading. In London, prices traded in narrow limits as investors waited to see if the Bank of England independent monetary committee raised interest rates.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt finished five ticks lower at £181.32 after trading in a band of just five points all day. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 was £1.50 down at £118, while Treasury 7 per cent 2022 was five ticks off at £101.32.

NEW YORK: Listless trading in the morning left the Dow Jones industrial average 9.09 points ahead at 7,698.22 by midday.

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7698.22 (+9.09)
S&P Composite 942.07 (+1.31)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 16448.05 (+52.00)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 10681.75 (+99.03)

Amsterdam:
ASEX Index 678.54 (+9.59)

Sydney:
DAX 2545.80 (+5.80)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3866.68 (+45.23)

Singapore:
Straits 1703.05 (+13.76)

Brussels:
General 13488.91 (+64.15)

Paris:
CAC-40 2822.41 (+7.52)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 11620.48

London:
FTSE 100 4908.3 (+10.9)

FTSE 250 4988.8 (+12.0)

FTSE 1000 2371.5 (+4.6)

FTSE Euro Stoxx 100 2590.62 (+15.6)

FTSE All-Share 2322.11 (+5.19)

FTSE Non Financials 2322.6 (+5.4)

FTSE Real Estate 132.27 (+0.4)

FTSE Govt Sec 99.90 (+0.11)

FTSE Volatility 4788

FTSE Vantage 1,675.1 (+0.03)

FTSE MSCI 1,024.4 (+0.5)

FTSE MSCI Europe 1,024.4 (+0.5)

FTSE MSCI Asia 1,024.4 (+0.5)

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Heavy skies

WHAT do you make of a company that runs a service business with poor industrial relations, sells a commodity product and has huge ambitious expansion plans? New entrants are attempting to steal its customers at the bottom end of the market while a strike and customer service problem seriously eroded confidence among top-paying clients. In the midst of all this mayhem, British Airways blithely continues to proclaim to the world that all is right; the alliance with American Airlines will go ahead and plans to set up a bargain-basement airline have been mooted.

Any investor who feels nervous is not alone. British Airways produced statistics yesterday that posed as many questions as it answered. Traffic was up 3 per cent but the load factor was down and the critical premium-paying

passenger traffic was still behind the main cabin. BA blames all this on the strike and points to confidence returning. Yet there are further worries about margins. Costs rose sharply in the half year, up 6 per cent — four times the rate of revenue growth — which the company blames on expenditure on aircraft and improved services. Yet, at the same time BA trumpets that £200 million will be saved this year, part of its £1 billion performance improvement goal.

BA is generous with the big numbers but for investors they remain meaningless. You might search forever for a reconciliation of the £200 million saving and the profits and remain none the wiser. Meanwhile, BA plans another assault on EasyJet and the discounters. There are safer investments; leave BA to its spin-doctors.

Whitbread

THE biggest challenge facing Whitbread's new chief executive is to dispel suspicions that the group paid too much for its leisure interests and yesterday he was at pains to point out that recent deals had been earnings enhancing in the half year and were outperforming the competition. His message: strong brands will prosper at the expense of the weak.

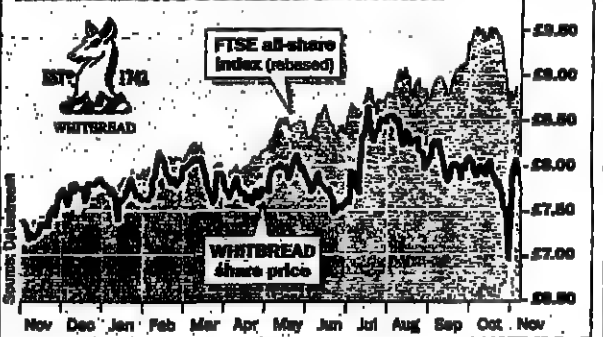
Mr Thomas, 51, is consciously well prepared for this role. In his previous job, as head of the company's leisure division, he masterminded acquisitions such as David Lloyd Leisure, Costa Coffee and the Marriott hotel franchise. The crucial factor, of course, will be continued expansion and Whitbread's ability to find cheap sites. For the time being, things look good: Café

Rouge is acquiring a national presence and the Travel Inn budget hotel chain is streets ahead of Forte Travelodge. And David Lloyd should double in size in three to four years. The group is frequently called on to anchor new developments. On the pub side, Whitbread has avoided the pitfall of underinvestment.

that has knocked Greenalls Group. Letting the side down was Pub Partnerships, although if Mr Thomas loses interest he can always suggest a deal to Nomura.

In the wake of recent market gyrations and nervousness caused by Greenalls's woes, the stock sits at an unwarranted 13 per cent discount to the market.

RESTAURANTS DESERVE RE-RATING



ScottishPower

SCOTTISHPOWER'S greatest talent is not managing utilities but managing the expectations of investors. Having blazed the trail for multi-utilities, the company is currently modest in its ambitions. ScottishPower, snatched up by Manweb before vertical integration became politically sensitive and then acquired Southern Water. Using the new customers as a springboard, it hopes to sell both gas and electricity as these are opened to competition.

The free-for-all is on its way and ScottishPower should be championing at the bit, but the company is setting itself fairly low targets. With access to one in five British households, it hopes to secure 15 per cent of the electricity market by 2000, from a base of 11 per cent. And with 6 per cent of the gas market — courtesy of weak competition in Scotland — it hopes to gain 12 per cent by 2000.

However, false modesty is

adept at setting targets that it then beats quite comprehensively, lulling investors with a warm glow when the results are announced. A similar line was taken with the forecast of cost-savings in Manweb and Southern Water, a marketing alliance with the AA is to be followed by two more partners in the next few months. With the help of powerful brands, it could well exceed its own goals.

Competitive energy markets are new to Britain; but there is little on the horizon to upset ScottishPower's grand plan and the shares are a buy.

Falkland Islands

THE FIRST THING to be said about Falkland Islands Holdings is that it has no stake in oil exploration. The second important fact about the company is that without a significant oil discovery in the area, FIH will never amount to more than a hill of beans.

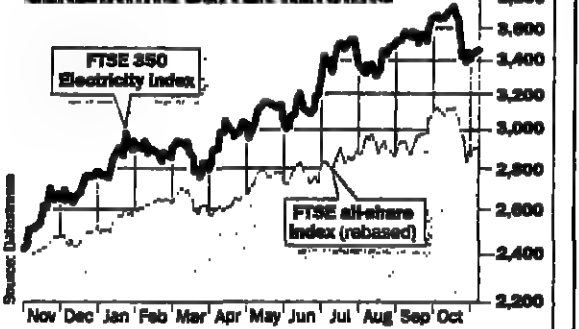
After the merger from Anglo United, FIH will have net assets of £800,000 and £2 million of borrowings. Banks will have a controlling interest in the company whose main assets are a hotel, a general store, a contract to run the main port, a Land Rover dealership and some land.

Profits of £1 million a year are unlikely to grow and could quickly diminish, in spite of the chance of a big oil find. In that event, FIH could provide ancillary services for the oil industry. However, it is important to keep this in perspective; most of the contracting will be done by international oil service companies, using shipyards in Argentina.

If FIH is lucky, its property holdings could become valuable. However, the risk of the Falklands returning to their sleepy past is too real for this company to be a good bet.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

GENERATING BETTER RETURNS



SCOTTISHPOWER, up 2p to 439p, kicked off the reporting season for the power generators with half-year figures that were given the seal of approval from most brokers.

The electricity sector has outperformed the rest of the market by 16 per cent this year. But confidence has been shaken by the pool price review.

Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, believes the review will be reasonably benign. Angelos Anastasiou at Laing says its impact on the industry remains unclear but reckons the

faint hearted should avoid the generators. "But there could be rich pickings for those willing to ride the storm," he adds.

Anastasiou calculates that the average nominal interim dividend growth for the sector will be about 10 per cent. This varies from 7 per cent in the case of British Energy, down 12p to 374p, to 15 per cent for PowerGen, 12p dearer at 690p.

Those making it on to the "buy" list include ScottishPower, National Power, up 5p to 514p, and Energy Group, 11p better at 626p.

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Start	End	Price	Change	Start	End	Price	Change
100p	102p	Trans 4/4/2002-05		102p	-	7.64	8.88		
102p	104p	Trans 1/14/4/2003-07		124p	-	8.88	1.64		
104p	106p	Trans 1/14/4/2003-07		106p	-	8.88	1.64		
106p	108p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		108p	-	8.88	1.64		
108p	110p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		110p	-	8.88	1.64		
110p	112p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		112p	-	8.88	1.64		
112p	114p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		114p	-	8.88	1.64		
114p	116p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		116p	-	8.88	1.64		
116p	118p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		118p	-	8.88	1.64		
118p	120p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		120p	-	8.88	1.64		
120p	122p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		122p	-	8.88	1.64		
122p	124p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		124p	-	8.88	1.64		
124p	126p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		126p	-	8.88	1.64		
126p	128p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		128p	-	8.88	1.64		
128p	130p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		130p	-	8.88	1.64		
130p	132p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		132p	-	8.88	1.64		
132p	134p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		134p	-	8.88	1.64		
134p	136p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		136p	-	8.88	1.64		
136p	138p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		138p	-	8.88	1.64		
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334p	336p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		336p	-	8.88	1.64		
336p	338p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		338p	-	8.88	1.64		
338p	340p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		340p	-	8.88	1.64		
340p	342p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		342p	-	8.88	1.64		
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356p	358p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		358p	-	8.88	1.64		
358p	360p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		360p	-	8.88	1.64		
360p	362p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		362p	-	8.88	1.64		
362p	364p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		364p	-	8.88	1.64		
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368p	370p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		370p	-	8.88	1.64		
370p	372p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		372p	-	8.88	1.64		
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408p	410p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		410p	-	8.88	1.64		
410p	412p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		412p	-	8.88	1.64		
412p	414p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		414p	-	8.88	1.64		
414p	416p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		416p	-	8.88	1.64		
416p	418p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		418p	-	8.88	1.64		
418p	420p	Trans 7/4/4/2004		420p	-	8.88	1.64		
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British aid should follow trade



per cent of national income. Three smaller members of the EU manage that. France and Germany at least contribute much more cash than the UK. And they are now the chief enthusiasts for tied aid in the bilateral budgets. The chances of Britain's new Department for International Development persuading France and Germany to abandon this policy

therefore appear slim. First put up another £3 billion a year, they might say, and you can tell us how to use EU aid, if not our own.

Britain's influence to help poor countries more effectively lies in its own bilateral aid budget. It should be used to link aid with UK business in a more practical and constructive way. The cynical old days of trade following aid may be over. A more helpful idea would be for aid to follow trade.

Clare Short's new policy contains a novel but sketchy plan to encourage UK companies to help poor countries by being more responsible in trade with them. Supermarkets and clothing retailers, for instance, should take care that contracts to buy summer food in winter, or to use low-cost labour to make designer fashions, help people in supplying countries. Lift living standards and do not destroy the local flora and fauna.

On the surface, this initiative seems quite separate from the aid programme. Yet it could be at its heart. Trade is most likely to lift living standards in poor countries. Aid linked to import and sourcing contracts can help to make sure that it does, by linking the provision of social services directly to production and by supporting schemes to ensure that development does not kill communities.

Development grants can also be linked to companies' investment in poor countries, which is now a far bigger force than official aid. This can reinforce the financial benefits and help to ensure that they are spread better. And by linking aid to British firms, the use of the aid can be monitored better on the ground and the behaviour of the firms kept up to scratch.

For relatively little money, the Department can also promote "fair trade" schemes for small

communities in poor countries, including Commonwealth banana growers. This could include an approval scheme and help with branding so that shoppers can be confident that they are paying a few pence more for a good reason.

The UK's limited aid budget should also be specialised. The government shows signs of cutting back the number of recipients. It might better specialise in certain forms of aid such as education, distance learning, health and water supplies. If this is planned with British firms, they can develop supply programmes and form partnerships on the ground.

If British trade has a weakness, it is that we are slower than our rivals and partners to exploit new third world markets. The DIT seems to have given up on this. The best policy for international development is to encourage British companies to trade much more with poor countries and to back their involvement with aid that pulls its weight and makes the aid budget at least a little less unpopular with voters.

Slogan signals change on the menu at McDonald's

Intense rivalry is prompting the search for a new recipe, according to Ian Brodie

Did somebody say McDonald's? This innocuous question is the new slogan adopted by the world's largest fast-food chain in its latest bid to boost sales in America. It is intended to be a catchphrase that will draw customers old and new to McDonald's outlets.

The slogan appears in commercials that use humour to get their message across. One 30-second advertisement takes place in an office building where a worker announces he is going to McDonald's for lunch. The remark starts a scramble among his colleagues to give him their carry-out orders. When he finally leaves the building, the camera pulls back to show hundreds of employees with their noses pressed against the windows, anxiously watching his progress.

The adverts are a shift from recent McDonald's marketing that dwelt largely on cut-price specials. They are part of an effort to reinvigorate McDonald's Corp. After years of sure-footed expansion, recent stumbles have left Wall Street wondering why so dominant a brand seems to have lost its way.

McDonald's worries have been intensified by increasingly aggressive competition. Burger King Corp, a wholly owned subsidiary of Britain's Grand Metropolitan, launched Big King, a Big Mac knock-off that has proved wildly popular. It has more meat than the Big Mac and, in the view of many, is also tastier for being barbecued rather than fried.

McDonald's has hit back in some areas with an item so similar to Burger King's single burger Whopper that it amounts to a cloneburger. Burger King's market share in the US has climbed one point to 19.2 per cent but is still way behind McDonald's 41.9 per cent.

McDonald's problems have been intensified by a growing number of franchisees, traditionally the most loyal supporters of the McDonald's ethos of standardised meals served quickly in clean surroundings. These stalwarts can be heard complaining about the lack of appetising new menu items emanating from the high-tech kitchens at McDonald's headquarters in suburban Chicago. They blame falling profits on cut-price promotions and on "cannibalisation", the opening of new McDonald's restaurants within the customer pool of existing ones.

There are persistent charges, strongly denied by McDonald's, that the corporation retaliates against franchisees who voice objections — even forcing them out of business. "The company is arrogant," said Dick Adams, a former McDonald's executive who leads a band of disgruntled franchisees called Consortium Members Inc. Mr Adams said the decision to bring the "McLibel" case against two environmentalists in London was typical of the company's heavy-handedness.

The consortium has taken up the case of a 65-year-old franchisee in Florida who, after 26 years in one location, was offered a new site in the same street. After studying the higher fees he would have to pay McDonald's, the man was convinced he would not make a profit and declined the offer.

Within weeks McDonald's gave him failing evaluations for food handling and sanitation and won a court injunction to take his store off him. A McDonald's spokesman said there had been concerns about cleanliness, but could not explain why they had not surfaced before.

Group profit of \$1.58 billion (€940 million) last year compared with \$1.43 billion a year earlier, on worldwide sales of about \$32 billion. Last month it said earnings rose 6 per cent in the first nine months but just 2 per cent in the third quarter to



The launch of Arch Deluxe, top, fed rumours about the future of Michael Quinlan, left, chairman. The "McLibel" case against Helen Steel and David Morris left a bad taste. Analysts want new winners like the Egg McMuffin, created by Herb Peterson

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\$449 million, or 64 cents a share. Analysts expected 67 cents. The company depends heavily on overseas operations and blamed the strong dollar for hurting its results. McDonald's has an astonishing total of 22,246 restaurants, of which nearly 10,000 are outside the US, including 702 in Britain. Foreign operations were responsible for 59 per cent of group pre-tax profit last year.

Damon Brundage, restaurant analyst for NatWest Securities in New York, remains convinced that McDonald's must change a tired product line for better-tasting beef and chicken burgers. McDonald's is so large and bureaucratic that it cannot adapt quickly to the marketplace, according to John Lord, chairman of the national food marketing department at St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia. Burger King, with 9,300 outlets worldwide, 439 of them in Britain, implements change rapidly.

McDonald's is badly in need of a new winner. Last year, it spent \$200 million to launch a range of beef, chicken and fish concoctions called Arch Deluxe. Maybe it was the high fat content or the price, but the new line was quickly nicknamed McFlop.

McDonald's had another bungle this year called Campsign 35, which offered a burger for 35 cents. Customers had to buy French fries and a soft drink at regular prices to qualify. There were so many cries of foul that the promotion was ignominiously withdrawn.

The string of mistakes has led to speculation over how long the McDonald's board will remain patient with their chairman, Michael Quinlan, a self-described "hands-on guy". He has been with the firm 34 years, starting in the mail room.

But nor should the company's comeback potential be underestimated. It would do well to heed its franchisees. They, after all, came up with Egg McMuffin, Hot Apple Pie, Filer o'Fish and the Big Mac, all winners. Headquarters, by contrast, cooked up McPizze, McLean and Arch Deluxe, all losers.

there courtesy of John Thornton, the non-executive chairman, who works for the investment bank. The other pests come from the Parthenon Group, a small management consulting firm that seems to have got the job because it has an office in Boston, Mass., US home base of Laura Ashley. There are worse reasons for hiring management consultants, I suppose. There are certainly few good ones.

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Ann Iverson has seen senior staff walk out

Why the coal industry must not be scuttled

Dr Dieter Helm argued in these pages last week that propping up coal would be bad for the environment, and that the coal industry should be allowed to go to the wall, even if this meant new nuclear capacity. The justification for all this lay in the Government's commitment to a 20 per cent reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2010.

However, Dr Helm made several statements that were seriously flawed or inaccurate, and side-stepped other issues in what seemed to be an apology for the current Government's almost Postle-Pilate attitude to coal.

We agree that on current trends the 20 per cent target is not remotely achievable. But this needs to be placed in the global context that the UK currently accounts for less than 2 per cent of world CO₂ emissions, with coal being less than half that figure.

This year UK coal demand will be of the order of 50 million tonnes. A one-off reduction that would be achieved with no UK coal is similar to the likely increase to China's burn each year for the next 15 years.

These figures highlight the difficulties in reducing emissions. One clear way to do so is to ensure that all countries, but especially emerging nations, have available to them technologies that will reduce the whole range of emissions from burning solid fuels. UK plc is well placed in this technological race.

The reality is that coal will remain a major player globally — in 1995 it overtook grain in volume terms as the world's number one traded commodity and it is continuing to

Jobs and export opportunities would be lost by closing mines, says Patrick Carragher

grow. To foreclose the clean coal option is environmentally naive and would lose the UK manufacturing sector export opportunities and jobs.

Dr Helm refers to coal lobbyists and specifically Richard Budge, of RJB, arguing coal's case in the name of security of supply, fuel diversity and sustainability. Not strictly true. These comments were trumpeted by John Batten, Energy Minister, after the election.

The reasons for security of supply considerations are well understood and require fuel diversity. The dangers of over-dependence on imported oil were highlighted during the 1970s and the last Government was clearly concerned about dependency upon coal in electricity generation, particularly in light of the 1984-85 miners' strike.

Current trends suggest that without a policy change the UK could be up to 80 per cent dependent upon gas in less than 15 years, at a time when its gas reserves will reduce to zero.

The inheritance Dr Helm is inviting us to create for our children is wholesale dependence on gas from unstable geopolitical regions, such as Algeria and the former Soviet Union. The Labour manifesto also committed the Government not to commission any new nuclear stations. If this is taken at face value it means that current nuclear capacity will decommission (starting first with the magnox stations). In the absence of a coal industry, gas would be required to fill the vacuum. And here's the rub: gas also emits CO₂, albeit not at the same level as coal. But the extra gas build required would blow a hole in the 20 per cent CO₂ target.

The real issue for the coal industry in the longer term is the need for the Government to review the regulation of the electricity industry to provide a proper comparison between generating costs as well as prices. The opportunity to do this exists with the current DTI review.

Dr Helm states that closing coal mines is not irreversible. In my 20 years experience in coal mining I do not believe I could find a reputable mining engineer to agree with him.

None of the producers is asking for subsidies. The remaining jobs in mining are much better paid than the replacement ones that have emerged through economic regeneration. This has important and positive consequences for local economies and means that the "multiplier" effect for these areas will be disastrous if these coal and related jobs go. The total effect being perhaps an employment loss of 50,000. Time is running out for the Government to address the reality of these issues.

Patrick Carragher is the General Secretary of the British Association of Colliery Management.

unique difficulties we face in London, we have since March reduced the total amount lost by over 100 million litres a day, enough to supply a town the size of Reading.

Yours faithfully, GORDON MAXWELL, Thames Water Utilities, Nugent House, Western Road, Reading, Berkshire.

Head ache

DEUTSCHE Morgan Grenfell is being pursued by a gang of headhunters over the arrival this summer of a new head of Latin American equities in London. Napier Scott, a new one to me but headhunters, like bats, tend to reproduce unexpectedly in dark corners, says it introduced Raul Biancardi to DMG in October. The bank and headhunters agreed informally that there was no vacancy but the appointment would be put on hold.

In June he popped up on the Latin American desk. The contract with Napier Scott said that if he was hired more

than six months afterwards no fee was payable. The headhunters are claiming, in a writ that manages to misspell two key names including that of their client, but we'll let that go, that he was employed at the bank before June. Or alternatively that, because the job was put on hold, the six-month cut-off does not apply. DMG is defending the claim, and the case could be instructive.

● AN ARRESTING headline on the Stock Exchange's IGV Company News service, flagging Inchcape's acquisition of a majority stake in a company that supplies almost all the Coca-Cola sold in Peru: "Inchcape Spends £41m on Peruvian Coke."

● A SURVEY in Accountancy Age suggests that four out of five finance directors would continue to employ an accountant who blew the whistle on corruption — a statement that registers at least eight points on the Mandy Rico-Davies scale. But consider the converse. The survey found that one in ten finance directors would sack anyone who pointed out that the books were being cooked. And those

are only the ones that admitted it. Reassuring, isn't it?

● On face of it "THE HUMAN face of Carol Galley" sounds like one of those joke books that compete in having the fewest pages. "Swiss Naval Victories", "Cost Benefit Analysis the EU Way", you know the kind. But it exists and will shortly be coming through your letter box. Six City institutions have banded together, each selling one of their investment trusts. The specialist agency handling the job, DMB&B Financial, has cleverly personified each trust and each investment house.

Schroders is a buccanier, a young man keen on foreign travel, who is invited to invest in an Asia-Pacific fund. Kleinwort Benson a lady with

a passion for Europe. Mercury Asset Management, by contrast, Galley's employer, is the opposite, someone who will seek out all things and only things British. Except that, now I come to think of it, she married a German.

● TALKING of EU munificence, a colleague has received an invitation to a conference on crafts and small businesses in Milan this month. Brussels offers to pay for a four-night stay and the air fare. Oddly enough, the conference is for just two days. Doubtless it will be as successful as its two predecessors which, the Commission claims, "led to a better recognition of the particularities of the sector and to a list of proposals aimed at improving the legal and administrative environment in which craft and small businesses operate." Of course they did.

Hard dough HARD to believe, but I am beginning to feel sorry for Laura Ashley. Not only do senior staff keep walking out because they cannot work with Ann Iverson, I hear the place is infested with twin plagues — Goldman Sachs staff and American management consultants. The Goldman boys, for whose benefit the floors have had to be especially strengthened to take the weight of their wallets, are

there courtesy of John Thornton, the non-executive chairman, who works for the investment bank. The other pests come from the Parthenon Group, a small management consulting firm that seems to have got the job because it has an office in Boston, Mass., US home base of Laura Ashley. There are worse reasons for hiring management consultants, I suppose. There are certainly few good ones.

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"They should've moved them closer to the UK says go"

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ACCOUNTANCY

Goalposts keep on moving

Howard Ross on the dangers of retrospective tax legislation

INLAND REVENUE officials and Treasury ministers will have breathed a sigh of relief at the recent judgment of the European Court of Human Rights. Three building societies lost their case against the Government over its right to legislate retrospectively to annul proceedings in UK courts. It had been expected that the decision would shed light on the legitimacy of the increasingly common practice of making tax legislation retrospective. This would have been of special interest to companies subjected to the windfall tax. Unfortunately, for those interested in this area, the court did not take the opportunity to lay down clear guidelines in this complex area.

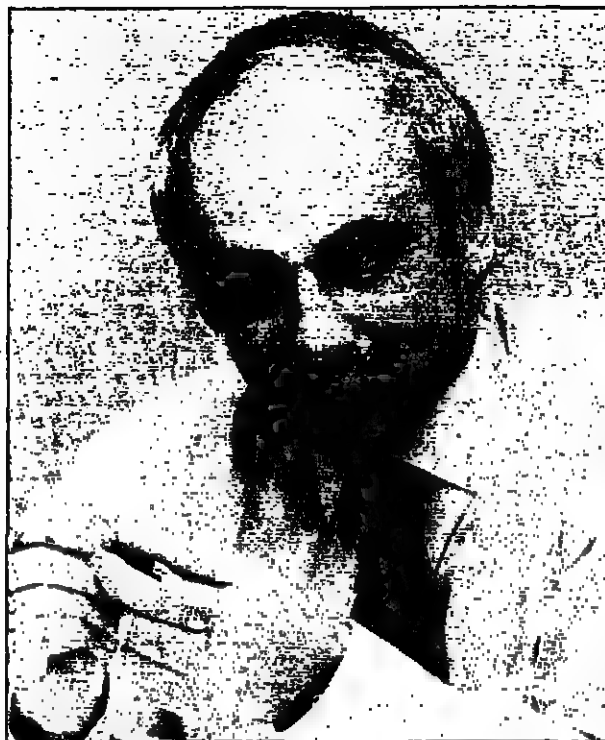
The Conservative administration introduced retrospective tax legislation on 27 occasions, often to reverse its effects in the courts. The Labour Government has continued this trend with the windfall tax. Previous retrospective legislation were all in some degree an admission of failure: the windfall tax punishes the "failings" of others, although imposed on persons very different (the company and its shareholders today) to those who benefited from the perceived excess profits (the shareholders at the time of privatisation).

Dislike of retrospective legislation is understandable. Retrospection lies awkwardly at the fracture line between two of

the main principles of the British constitution: the supremacy of Parliament — that the Government in Parliament can make whatever laws it likes; and the rule of law — that everyone, including the Government, is bound by the law and has an equal right to take disputes to a fair hearing by independent courts.

By taking advantage of its supremacy to make any law it thinks fit the Government erodes the rule of law, because retrospective legislation promulgates rival versions of what the law was at any one time. Unconstrained, this would render law meaningless. Retrospection is also destructive of the culture of self-reliance. How can taxpayers be expected to be responsible for their solvency if the fiscal laws within which they operate are liable to be changed retrospectively?

These are powerful considerations, but they are not absolute ones. It is not just retrospective legislation that destroys legitimate interests and overturns reasonable expectations. All legislative change does this in some degree. The propensity of retrospective legislation to overturn reasonable expectations is, however, far greater than in the case of other legislation. Because of this, there needs to be a much more significant perceived benefit to justify it. There are examples of tax



Howard Ross says action is needed from the UK courts

retrospection which everyone agrees to have been a sensible political choice: thus, the General Rate (Public Utilities) Act 1977, which reinstated legislation providing for the rating valuation of various utilities. The legislation had been acted upon for years before it came to light that it had been accidentally repealed a decade earlier. Such examples are rare. Most retrospective legislation destroys legitimate existing rights, and usually does so unfairly. Government must

therefore justify an otherwise ruthless action by appealing to some greater good. In the tax field the purpose of retrospection is invariably to raise more money, so the beneficiary is the Government or "the general body of taxpayers".

Governments often find it helpful to prepare public opinion for a retrospective tax by denigrating the intended victims. Thus the use of terminology such as "windfall".

Under UK domestic law there is no redress for a

taxpayer subject to retrospective legislation. However, the UK's obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms are different because, although taxation of corporations hardly lies at the forefront of its concerns, its jurisdiction is explicitly ethical. That extends to companies because individuals are affected by the mal-treatment of institutions. The convention protects the possessions of individuals and corporations from expropriation.

The court has already held that retrospective legislation to counter a particular offensive 1970s tax avoidance scheme did not contravene the convention. In the building societies decision the court noted that it was "especially mindful of the dangers inherent in the use of retrospective legislation which has the effect of influencing the judicial determination of a dispute". However, the judges went on to hold that even the rule against interference in the judicial process "cannot be interpreted to prevent any interference by the authorities" with pending legal proceedings to which they are a party. To fall foul of the convention, a tax would need to have some special element of unfairness.

The present Government is a champion of the convention and has announced its incorporation into UK law. It is to be hoped that the UK courts will seize the opportunity soon to be afforded to them, to look critically at the whole issue of retrospective tax legislation.

Howard Ross is a Partner in the tax practice of Clifford Chance.

Is your merger really necessary?

THE great merger race opens in earnest this weekend. The proposals for the merger of Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse will be sent out to partners for their consideration. The proposals for the KPMG and Ernst & Young merger will wing their way later in the month. Voting will take place sooner rather than later. If the mergers go through, we are looking at a global hierarchy of only four big firms to service the world's largest companies.

The consequences of this are enormous. Partners are going to have a difficult time assessing the issues before the vote. The problem is that the documents going out to the partners can tell only one side of the story. The proposals have one ultimate purpose — to get partners to vote for them. As a result, they cannot be totally truthful documents. "They have to be the go-for-it papers," one former senior partner told me the other week. They can spell out some implications, but not all. Turkey will not vote for Christmas. This is obvious from the flurry of activity after a senior Coopers partner let it be known last week that one consequence of the merger would be a 10 per cent cut of partners worldwide. If that were set out in the proposals, 850 of the 8,500 partners would be "No" votes automatically. The idea was immediately published in internal memos rushed to the two firms' partners.

There is also the matter of clients. Client concerns will be included in the proposals, but cannot be fully addressed. This is not because anyone is trying to avoid them, it is simply that accountancy firms, for all their protestations that "clients come first", have not really addressed the issue yet. This becomes obvious the more you talk to partners and clients. If you put client concerns to senior partners, you receive the same answer. It comes in different forms, but amounts to "They don't understand". What clients tend to say, particularly when told that the prime motivation for the mergers is to put together huge investment in setting up networks in China, Russia and other emerging markets, is that they don't care how much it costs to have offices in 30 Chinese cities, what they want is decent service here.

The firms' somewhat weary response is that clients are looking at the firms as they are today without understanding what they will be in the future. This is where the dream of huge professional service firms comes in. The people behind the mergers dream of a few colossal dominating a highly sophisticated market that will encompass every known professional service with the exception, they

hope in the far future, of audit. Whereas what clients want is a good firm, with global reach, that can provide the services they need effectively and cheaply wherever they happen to be.

These two very different views, one a vision, the other a reality, are going to be very hard for the firms to bring together. Clients tend to say that the firms, as currently constituted, seem global enough. If they go into further detail, they will point out that the only reason the firms are not structured as single firms globally has been nothing to do with client service motivation. It is simply because that way they can avoid any question of liability straying across borders. One single global partnership could see partners in England paying up for negligence in New England. At present, this cannot happen.

Clients also tend to take a scathing view of the idea that the firms need to double their size to afford the investment required for their vision of the future. They point out that

if clients want to invest heavily for new markets, accountants generally advise going to the stock market to raise funds. The accountancy firms' problems in raising enough money is a problem of structure rather than markets. If they were to change from being partnerships into corporations, there would be less problem in raising money. These are the real business issues that need to be addressed.

However, there are also problems of simple perception. These range from the light-hearted to the serious. At a seminar at the World Congress of Accountants in Paris last week, Peter Day, of Morgan Stanley, who is chairman of the Toronto Stock Exchange committee on corporate governance, found himself introducing a speaker from KPMG. Fishing for words to describe what KPMG did, he said with a smile: "It's a big, it's a big, oh, I don't know." That is the light-hearted side. After a dinner this week, I found myself talking to the chairman of one of the largest and most influential clients involved in the UK mergers. He was not just vehement. He was thunderous in his view that they were utterly unnecessary.

The final reason behind the mergers is sheer ego. Partners next week should look at the proposals and wonder why the current Big Six firms did not stick to the gentle cartel that they already operated. The firms should have been ingenious enough to find a way of reshaping their world without antagonising regulators and clients. If they are not ingenious enough to do that, they are not ingenious enough to deserve to survive.



ROBERT BRUCE

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Chinese puzzle

LOSS of face is a big issue for the Chinese. So we can only hope that the Chinese Vice-Minister of Finance is slightly deaf. Otherwise the audience's reception of his speech to the World Accounting Congress in Paris last week must have baffled him. During his presentation on the role of accountants in the transition of the Chinese economy, gales of laughter swept the auditorium as the man doing the translation into English became repeatedly

MANY OTHER REASONS

lost. Instead of hearing how many joint ventures had been set up, the audience heard long pauses followed by non-accounting phrases like "bloody hell, where is he now" and "oh God, at last". Both audience and translator greeted the end of the speech with something close to hysteria.

Scots wha hae

IN COMMON with many Scottish exiles in the City, both

Robert Smith and Norman Murray — chief executives of asset management and private equity respectively at Morgan Grenfell — return to their families at their baronial piles north of the border at weekends. But during the week they share a flat in Earls Court, West London. The problem is that it is not far from a notorious gay pub where customers are attired in strictly non-accounting leather and metalware. So there was

acute embarrassment when both Murray and Smith were heading home this week after the annual Scots ICA dinner. Having realised that they were short of a crucial breakfast bottle of milk, the pair pitched up at the local all-night grocery in full kilted regalia. "It was," said Smith, "a good thing that I am no longer president. I don't know what would have happened if I had been wearing my chain of office as well."

Careless talk

LAST week's news that a Coopers partner had ventured the view that the proposed worldwide merger with Price Waterhouse would mean a cull of 10 per cent of the partners prompted some speedy damage limitation work at both firms. At Pw, Ian Brindle, the senior partner, sent an immediate note to all partners emphasising that there would be no redundancies whatsoever "except for the Cooper's partner who talked to the press".

ROBERT BRUCE

Human Rights Law Report

No breach in retrospective stifling of societies' tax claim

National and Provincial Building Society, Leeds Permanent Building Society and Yorkshire Building Society v United Kingdom

(Case No 117/1996/736/033-435)

Before R. Byssdale, President, and Judges R. Mcdonnald, N. Vahnes, E. Palm, R. Fikken, Sir John E. Freeland, P. Jambrek, K. Jungwirth and E. Levits. Registrar H. Petrulid. Deputy Registrar P. J. Mahoney. (Judgment October 23)

Retrospective measures adopted by Parliament which stifled building societies' claims over corporation tax did not breach the European Convention on Human Rights given the powers a state enjoyed in securing the payment of taxes.

The European Court of Human Rights held unanimously that there had been no violation of article 1 of Protocol No 1 to the Convention and, by eight votes to one, that there had been no violation of that provision taken in conjunction with article 14 of the Convention.

Furthermore, the Court held unanimously that there had been no violation of article 6(1) of the Convention and, by eight votes to one, that there had been no violation of that article in conjunction with article 14 of the Convention.

Article 1 of Protocol No 1 provides: "Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law."

"The preceding provisions shall not, however, in any way impair the right of a state to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest or to secure the payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties."

Article 6 of the Convention provides: "1. In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law."

principle liable to pay income tax in respect of interest paid to them. For practical reasons and pursuant to voluntary arrangements between building societies and the Inland Revenue, the Revenue levied tax at source in the form of a single, composite payment, composite rate tax, or CRT, calculated as a proportion of the total sum of interest paid. Investors received interest net of tax and their liability to pay tax on the interest was discharged by the building society via the payment of CRT to the Revenue.

Up to and including the fiscal year 1985-1986, CRT was calculated by reference to the interest paid by the building society during its own twelve-month accounting period ending within that fiscal year. That system was terminated with effect from the beginning of the fiscal year 1986-1987, that is, April 6, 1986. As of that date a new system was introduced under which the tax was calculated on a quarterly basis on the actual interest paid during the fiscal year.

Since the building societies' accounting periods did not coincide with the fiscal year, that left a gap of several months not covered by either the old system or the new. The Treasury issued the Income Tax (Building Societies) Regulations (SI 1986 No 482) setting out transitional provisions which made it possible to levy tax over that period. Pursuant to the 1986 Regulations, the National and Provincial, December 21, 1992 (Leeds) and January 11, 1993 (Yorkshire). The Commission later joined the three applications. The applications so joined were declared admissible on January 13, 1995.

Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a report on June 25, 1996 in which it established the facts and expressed the opinion that there had been no violation of article 1 of Protocol No 1 (13 votes to 3); that there had been no violation of article 6(1) of the Convention (9 votes to 7); and that it was not necessary to examine the applicants' complaints under article 6(1) together with article 14 of the Convention (14 votes to 2).

The Commission referred the case to the Court on September 16, 1996. The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain

and Northern Ireland subsequently referred the case to the Court on October 25, 1996.

THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS held:

I Alleged violation of article 1 of Protocol No 1
The Court took as its first point the need to clarify whether the applicants were correct in their primary submission that the effect of the 1986 Regulations was to subject the interest which they paid to their investors in the gap period to a double imposition and that Parliament had been misled in that respect.

The Court noted that the interest would inevitably have been taxed had the voluntary arrangements between building societies and the Revenue continued in force. The applicants had in fact already deducted the tax owing to the Revenue from the interest paid to their investors and that tax had been lodged in their reserves waiting to be brought into account at some stage in accordance with the operation of the said arrangements.

It was an inescapable conclusion that, in the absence of the transitional mechanism in the 1986 Regulations, each of the applicant societies would have been left with a considerable windfall in the move from the prior-period basis of assessment to the actual-year basis.

Furthermore, the Court considered that there was no support in the judicial pronouncements in the Woolwich litigation for the argument that the interest had been subjected to a double imposition, other than in a theoretical sense.

The interest was taxed once and once only as evidenced by the fact that there was no increase in the revenue collected from the applicants as between the old and new tax payment regimes. That the 1986 Regulations would have that effect on the interest paid in the gap period should have been appreciated by the applicant societies.

The measures were debated at length in Parliament before their adoption against the background of strong lobbying by building societies to have the gap period omitted for tax assessment purposes.

In the change-over to the new system, it could not be maintained in the circumstances that Parliament was misled as to the impact of the 1986 Regulations.

Parliament had intended that the interest would be charged to tax and the money which were paid to the Inland Revenue by virtue of those regulations were neither the result of a double imposition nor an unlawful expropriation of their assets.

The Court expressed no con-

cluded view as to whether any of the legal claims asserted by the applicant societies could properly be considered "possessions" within the meaning of article 1 of Protocol No 1. It doubted whether any of the claims were sufficiently established or could be considered to be based on any legitimate expectation that the law would not be amended in the way it was on two occasions.

Notwithstanding those doubts, the Court decided to proceed on the working assumption that in the light of the second House of Lords ruling in Woolwich the applicant societies did have "possessions" in the form of vested rights to taxation which they sought to exercise in direct and indirect ways in the various legal proceedings launched in 1991 and 1992.

On that understanding, the Court concluded that section 53 of the Finance Act 1991 and section 64 of the Finance (No 2) Act 1992, constituted an interference with the exercise of their rights since the concrete effects of both sections were to stifle the legal possibilities to assert them.

As to whether or not Parliament was justified in enacting section 53 and section 64 with retrospective effect, the Court had regard to the fact that the original intention of Parliament to tax the interest paid in the gap period had been scuttled as a result of the first ruling of the House of Lords in Woolwich.

Section 53 was intended to remedy the technical deficiencies in the 1966 Regulations exposed in that ruling. In the Court's opinion, it could not be maintained that the aim of that measure was without reasonable foundation having regard to the public interest in ensuring that private entities did not enjoy the benefit of a windfall in a changeover to a new tax payment regime and did not deny the Exchequer revenue simply on account of inadvertent defects in the enabling tax legislation.

The Court also found it significant that the official decision to seek Parliament's approval for a retrospective amendment of the 1966 Regulations had been taken before the Leeds and the National and Provincial had issued their writs initiating restitution proceedings against the Inland Revenue and before the imminence of the launch of those proceedings.

As to Section 64, the Court took the view that that measure had also to be seen as an attempt by Parliament to prevent its original intention from being circumvented. The challenge to the validity of the Treasury Orders in the form of the judicial review proceedings and the follow-up restitution proceedings were in effect an initiative on the part of all

three societies to recover indirectly what section 53 had denied the Leeds and the National and Provincial.

It was stressed that that time around Parliament had even greater public interest motives for enacting retrospective legislation given that the challenge to the Treasury Orders placed at risk substantial amounts of revenue which had been collected from 1986 onwards.

Having regard to the wide margin of appreciation which a contracting state enjoyed in framing and adopting policies in the tax sector, the Court concluded that, in the circumstances, the retrospective measures adopted by Parliament, even if they had the effect of stifling the applicants' legal claims, did not upset the balance between their rights to restitution and the public interest in securing the payment of taxes.

II Alleged violation of article 1 of Protocol No 1 in conjunction with article 14
The Court took the view that that the applicant societies had not been considered to be in a relevantly similar situation to that of the Woolwich even if they had supported the legal proceedings which the latter had initiated. It was stressed in that respect that the Woolwich alone had borne the cost of the costs they had paid to the Inland Revenue on two occasions right up to the House of Lords.

By the time the Leeds and the National and Provincial had issued their writs claiming restitution, the Woolwich had already secured a victory in the House of Lords and had reasonable prospects of having the Court of Appeal ruling on their restitution claim upheld by the House of Lords.

In those circumstances, it could not be maintained that the applicant societies were in an analogous situation to that of the Woolwich. Even if that could be shown, it was the Court's view that Parliament had a reasonable and objective justification for excluding the Woolwich from the retrospective effects of section 53 of the Finance Act 1991 on account of the fact that building society had secured a final judgment in its favour from the highest court in the land.

It was understandable that Parliament did not wish to interfere with that decision and deprive the Woolwich of the fruits of its victory.

As to the alleged discriminatory effect of section 64 of the Finance (No 2) Act 1992, the Court noted that that provision was of general application. Even if the Woolwich had no interest in impugn-

ing the Treasury Orders since it had recovered in full everything owing to it, it could not be maintained that section 64 perpetuated an unfair distinction between it and the applicant societies having regard to the Court's rejection of the discrimination argument levelled against section 53.

III Alleged violation of article 6(1)
The Court rejected the Government's argument that article 6 did not apply to the different legal proceedings launched by the applicant societies.

Notwithstanding the fiscal dimension of the litigation at issue, the Court concluded that the two sets of restitution proceedings were private law actions and the judicial review proceedings were closely intertwined with and contingent upon the outcome of the second set of restitution proceedings.

As to the merits of the applicants' complaint that that they had been denied their right of access to a court to vindicate their rights and recover the moneys they had handed over to the revenue, the Court noted at the outset that the effect of both section 53 and section 64 was to render their claims to restitution unviable.

The applicant societies had never actually been prevented from asserting their claims before a court.

Whether or not the action of the authorities could be considered to amount to a breach of article 6 had to be determined in the light of all the circumstances of the case, bearing in mind that the reasons adduced by the authorities to justify recourse to retrospective measures had to be subjected to close scrutiny.

Against that background, the Court noted that at the time the Leeds and the National and Provincial embarked on their restitution actions against the Revenue they were clearly conscious of the fact that Parliament intended that the interest paid by building societies to their investors during the gap period would be liable to tax.

Those two building societies could reasonably be considered to appreciate that Parliament would not be content to have that intention frustrated on account of the technical defects in the 1966 Regulations which allowed the Woolwich to secure a victory against the Revenue in the House of Lords.

There was too much revenue at stake and the public interest motives for retrospectively validating the impugned regulations were too important to allow other building societies to benefit from the vulnerability of the Treasury's situation following the final decision in the first Woolwich case.

legality of the Treasury Orders since it had recovered in full everything owing to it, it could not be maintained that section 64 perpetuated an unfair distinction between it and the applicant societies having regard to the Court's rejection of the discrimination argument levelled against section 53.

IV Alleged violation of article 6(1) in conjunction with article 14
The Court considered that the reasons which it adduced in support of its earlier conclusion that there had been no breach of article 1 of Protocol No 1 in conjunction with article 14 served equally to refute the applicant societies' complaints under this head.

Having regard therefore to the particular circumstances of the case including the presence of compelling public interest considerations militating in favour of legislative intervention and to the fact that the dispute between the Treasury and the applicants took place in the tax sector in an area where recourse to retrospective legislation was not confined to the United Kingdom, the Court concluded that the applicant societies could not justifiably complain that they were denied a right of access to a court for a judicial determination on their rights.

Accordingly, no breach of article 6(1) had been made out.

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Saatchi sues Vauxhall Motors over unpaid fees

BY JASON NISSE

SAATCHI & SAATCHI Group, the advertising agency which last month demerged from Cordiant Communications, is suing Vauxhall Motors for £207,000 that Saatchi claims the carmaker owes it for work promoting the GM Card credit card.

Saatchi is claiming that Vauxhall owes it five months' fees and six months' notice after terminating a four-year-old agreement with a Saatchi subsidiary earlier this year. The fees total £103,885 and Saatchi is claiming a similar

amount in lieu of terminating the notice agreement.

CME KHBB, a Saatchi subsidiary, was hired by Vauxhall to help to launch the GM Card in 1993. The early television advertisements featured Martin Shaw, the star of *The Professionals* and *Rhodes*.

The Saatchi business was paid on a retainer, originally £50,000 a month, but this was reduced to £26,000 and then £17,000 as part of an agreement made last February.

However, in May, Vauxhall fired Saatchi, saying it would stop paying the monthly retainer, with the April payment being the last. Since then, Saatchi has been arguing that Vauxhall should continue paying under the agreement.

Yesterday Saatchi told *The Times*: "We parted company with the client earlier this year but believe that Vauxhall has clear-cut contractual obligations it has yet to fulfil. Regrettably, we have had no alternative but to resort to legal action to protect the agency's commercial interests."

A spokesman for Vauxhall said: "The matter is being handled by our lawyers." Zenith, the media buying group jointly owned by Saatchi and Cordiant, has settled with Christine Walker, its former boss, in a deal that allows her to start her new agency, Zenith, in January, to prevent her approaching former clients. She has agreed not to talk to specified clients without written permission.

Walker Media is to be jointly owned by Ms Walker and M&C Saatchi, the agency formed by Lord Saatchi, former chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi. It will be formally launched in January, but has started work from M&C Saatchi's offices in Central London.

Penguin's Amazon adventure

BY RAYMOND SNOODY

THE Penguin Group, the publisher owned by Pearson, yesterday said that Amazon.com, the Internet bookstore, may soon be Penguin's largest customer.

Michael Lynton, Penguin chairman and chief executive, said that Amazon bought \$1 million of books from Penguin last year. This year's total, looked likely to be \$10 million, and the growth rate was 40 per cent a quarter. Mr Lynton said: "If this current growth continues in the next two to three years, they will probably be our largest customer."

More than 90 per cent of Penguin's US backlist sales come from Amazon. The enormous Internet backlist sales, Mr Lynton said, "could be of huge importance to us".



Roger Newton, right, chief executive of L Gardner Group, and Stuart Molliekin, finance director, reported annual pre-tax profits of £4.4 million (£2.5 million). Earnings were 21.3p a share (15.6p). The total dividend rises to 7p (6p) with a 4.7p final

Accounting rules simplified

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

SMALL companies deluged by a steady stream of new accounting standards can now find relief — in yet another new rulebook.

After long debate and much controversy, the Accounting Standards Board (ASB) today publishes its *Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities*.

FRSSE brings together all the accounting rules from other standards that small

companies need to meet in a single 71-page volume, albeit appended with about as much again in helpful hints.

The new simplified and consolidated rulebook cuts out more than three quarters of the text of the various separate published standards but may have to be updated for new ones. It applies to the vast majority of companies and analogous bodies that qualify as small under the Companies

Act 1985, usually those with turnover up to £2.8 million a year.

Most new accounting standards have derogations for small entities and some, such as the financial reporting standard requiring statements of cashflow, do not apply at all to smaller businesses. In this and some other cases, however, the ASB recommends that small companies comply voluntarily in a simplified form.

Sir David Tweedie, the board's chairman, says: "I know that some want to go much further in exempting certain small companies from all accounting standards, but this document goes as far as the ASB believes it may safely go at present."

FRSSE comes into effect immediately for companies that want to use it.

Accountancy, page 30

BSE crisis lifts Shanks & McEwan

BY CHRIS AYLES

THE BSE crisis may have caused financial devastation for farmers and food retailers, but it helped to boost profits at Shanks & McEwan, the UK's biggest landfill and waste disposal group.

Shanks yesterday reported a 9 per cent rise in pre-tax

profits in the six months to September 27, from £11.6 million to £12.7 million, on turnover of £88.3 million, up 44 per cent. About £21 million of the increase in turnover came from the landfill tax.

Landfill use in the South of England rose sharply in the

period, with the burning of meat and bone arising directly from the BSE crisis helping Rechem, its subsidiary. The company has commissioned two power stations, in Bedfordshire and in Lancashire.

The group's earnings per share were 4.3p (3.9p). A

dividend of 1.4p (1.3p) will be paid on January 7.

Shanks said that, although results had been boosted by a one-off profit of £1.5 million as a result of the BSE crisis and the resolution of a claim over the sale of a division, steady second-half growth was expected.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Inchcape increases investment in Peru

INCHCAPE, the international distribution group, is to invest a further £41 million in its Coca-Cola bottling operations in Peru. This will give it a 50.1 per cent interest in Peru's largest Coca-Cola business, with about 90 per cent of the country's sales of Coca-Cola.

The business is to be formed through the merger of Embotelladora Latinoamericana, the Lima Coca-Cola bottler where Inchcape has management control, with Negociación Sur Peruana and Compañía Industrial Nor Peruana, the Coca-Cola bottlers for the south and north of Peru. The combined company had pro forma net assets of £113 million at June 30.

Dowty wins \$100m order

DOWTY AEROSPACE, a division of TI Group, has won a \$100 million (£59.76 million) order to supply components to General Electric Aircraft Engines of the US. The three-year deal starts in 1999. It is the largest won by Dowty's turbine engine components division, which specialises in engine ring technology and rigid tube fabrication, and will be carried out in North Carolina and Pennsylvania in the US.

Wolseley disposal

WOLSELEY, the UK building materials company, is selling its Hunterskil Howard subsidiary to AccuStaff for £45 million, it was announced yesterday. In addition, AccuStaff, an American business services group, has arranged for the repayment of inter-company debt amounting to £10 million. Hunterskil Howard's principal activity is the placement of contract staff in the UK and continental Europe.

Hewetson advances

HEWETSON, the building materials group, said that all its markets show signs of rising demand. Order books were now very strong and operating margins continued to improve. It said. In the half year to September 30 pre-tax profits rose to £2.18 million, from £728,000, on sales up to £35.79 million, from £25.88 million. Earnings per share were 8.59p (3.48p). A 2.25p interim dividend, up from 0.85p, is due on January 21.

NRG valued at £17.6m

SHARES in Northern Recruitment Group (NRG) will be priced at 106p, valuing the business at £17.6 million when the company makes its debut on the stock market on November 13 by way of a placing by Beeson Gregory. The issue will raise about £1.35 million, to help to fund expansion. In the year ended June 30 pre-tax profits rose to £1.72 million (£1 million) on turnover of £10.4 million (£7.33 million).

Raglan raises £6.8m

RAGLAN PROPERTIES, the investment and development company, is raising £6.8 million by selling properties to fund industrial sector acquisitions. Interim pre-tax profits rose from £1 million to £3.4 million, including a £2.5 million receipt from settlement of legal action. Earnings per share rose to 1.9p, from 0.44p. There is no interim dividend. A final dividend of not less than 1.2p in respect of the year is expected.

Strasbo

s' tax claim

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Modest gains after late rally

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Low Country				High Country			
Sec	12	15	18	Sec	12	15	18
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
52	67	80	90	225	104	124	134
53	68	81	91	105	105	125	135
54	69	82	92	106	106	126	136
55	70	83	93	107	107	127	137
56	71	84	94	108	108	128	138
57	72	85	95	109	109	129	139
58	73	86	96	110	110	130	140
59	74	87	97	111	111	131	141
60	75	88	98	112	112	132	142
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67	82	95	105	119	119	139	149
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132	147	160	170	184	184	204	214
133	148	161	171	185	185	205	215
134	149	162	172	186	186	206	216
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143	158	171	181	195	195	215	225
144	159	172	182	196	196	216	226
145	160	173	183	197	197	217	227
146	161	174	184	198	198	218	228
147	162	175	185	199	199	219	229
148	163	176	186	200	200	220	230
149	164	177	187	201	201	221	231
150	165	178	188	202	202	222	232
151	166	179	189	203	203	223	233
152	167	180	190	204	204	224	234
153	168	181	191	205	205	225	235
154	169	182	192	206	206	226	236
155	170	183	193	207	207	227	237
156	171	184	194	208	208	228	238
157	172	185	195	209	209	229	239
158	173	186	196	210	210	230	240
159	174	187	197	211	211	231	241
160	175	188	198	212	212	232	242
161	176	189	199	213	213	233	243
162	177	190	200	214	214	234	244
163	178	191	201	215	215	235	245
164	179	192	202	216	216	236	246
165	180	193	203	217	217	237	247
166	181	194	204	218	218	238	248
167	182	195	205	219	219	239	249
168	183	196	206	220	220	240	250
169	184	197	207	221	221	241	251
170	185	198	208	222	222	242	252
171	186	199	209	223	223	243	253
172	187	200	210	224	224	244	254
173	188	201	211	225	225	245	255
174	189	202	212	226	226	246	256
175	190	203	213	227	227	247	257
176	191	204	214	228	228	248	258
177	192	205	215	229	229	249	259
178	193	206	216	230	230	250	260
179	194	207	217	231	231	251	261
180	195	208	218	232	232	252	262
181	196	209	219	233	233	253	263
182	197	210	220	234	234	254	264
183	198	211	221	235	235	255	265
184	199	212	222	236	236	256	266
185	200	213	223	237	237	257	267
186	201	214	224	238	238	258	268
187	202	215	225	239	239	259	269
188	203	216	226	240	240	260	270
189	204	217	227	241	241	261	271
190	205	218	228	242	242	262	272
191	206	219	229	243	243	263	273
192	207	220	230	244	244	264	274
193	208	221	231	245	245	265	275
194	209	222	232	246	246	266	276
195	210	223	233	247	247	267	277
196	211	224	234	248	248	268	278
197	212	225	235	249	249	269	279
198	213	226	236	250	250	270	280
199	214	227	237	251	251	271	281
200	215	228	238	252	252	272	282
201	216	229	239	253	253	273	283
202	217	230	240	254	254	274	284
203	218	231	241	255	255	275	285
204	219	232	242	256	256	276	286
205	220	233	243	257	257	277	287
206	221	234	244	258	258	278	288
207	222	235	245	259	259	279	289
208	223	236	246	260	260	280	290
209	224	237	247	261	261	281	291
210	225	238	248	262	262	282	292
211	226	239	249	263	263	283	293
212	227	240	250	264	264	284	294
213	228	241	251	265	265	285	295
214	229	242	252	266	266	286	296
215	230	243	253	267	267	287	297
216	231	244	254	268	268	288	298
217	232	245	255	269	269	289	299
218	233	246	256	270	270	290	300
219	234	247	257	271	271	291	301
220	235	248	258	272	272	292	302
221	236	249	259	273	273	293	303
222	237	250	260	274	274	294	304
223	238	251	261	275	275	295	305
224	239	252	262	276	276	296	306
225	240	253	263	277	277	297	307
226	241	254	264	278	278	298	308
227	242	255	265	279	279	299	309
228	243	256	266	280	280	300	310
229	244	257	267	281	281	301	311
230	245	258	268	282	282	302	312
231	246	259	269	283	283	303	313
232	247	260	270	284	284	304	314
233	248	261	271	285	285	305	

[illegible][illegible]

NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown admires the way John Travolta and Nicolas Cage make the most of the risible *Face/Off*

An identity parade of the skin-deep

They're bringing in their top surgical team from DC. John Travolta is told by his wife, Joan Allen, "You're going to be OK." This is what you might call magic wand dialogue: with one wave of the tongue, the film wriggles free of an impossible situation.

Consider the facts. Travolta's FBI agent has been surgically altered to resemble his terrorist nemesis, Nicolas Cage. Not to be outdone, Cage has borrowed Travolta's discarded face and used his own new identity to slip into Travolta's shoes, office and bed sheets. Think of the scars Travolta has sustained, both physical and psychological, even before his real identity is restored. And this man is going to be OK?

Face/Off relies extensively on the magic wand to see itself through its preposterous plot. But we must take into account some other magic. There is the director John Woo, the Hong Kong god of action cinema, making his most extravagant use yet of the Hollywood dream machine. And there are the stars, Travolta and Cage, who pounce on their double roles with glee, and give a quirky human dimension to what otherwise would be a stalling ballet of gunshots, fireballs, shattering glass, exploding planes and boats.

The script's notions are well-worn. Numerous criminals have enjoyed new faces in murky B-movies and A-grade fare such as the Bogart vehicle *Dark Passage*. But no film has ever built such colossal hokum out of the plastic surgery business. And no FBI agent has gone so far undercover as Travolta's Sean Archer, consumed with vengeance since Cage's terrorist, one Castor Troy, killed Archer's son on a carousel ride. An extreme situation provokes the FBI's surgical trick: Travolta needs to wrinkle out the date and place of Troy's next bomb from his brother (called Polux, of course), who is imprisoned in a top-secret facility.

So out come the knives, the laser shears, the abdominal implant, the voice-altering microchip; and Castor Troy is reborn. All goes well with the deception until the real Troy spies Travolta's facial skin floating gently in a saline solution and forces the surgeon to kit him up as Archer Mark II, arrogant and lustful.

At first the film's cheeky strut is enjoyable. But there are limits. Halfway through, the story gets stuck. For all the heavy use of emotional triggers — wives, lovers, fragile children — it is hard to feel sympathy for the characters' absurd predicament. And Woo, for all his ingenuity, overplays his hand, piling one climax on top of another, cluttering scenes with Crucifix poses, fluttering white doves, and 100 explosions too many. Anyone still left with an

Face/Off
Odeon Leicester Square
18, 138 mins
Travolta and Cage
swap identities

Maximum Risk

Virgin Tróadero
18, 100 mins
Routine carnage
with Van Damme

The Gambler

Curzon West End
15, 97 mins
Michael Gambon as
Dostoevsky

**My Mother's
Courage**

ABC Panten Street
12, 92 mins
Pauline Collins as
a Hungarian Jew

Up on the Roof

Plaza, 15, 101 mins
Ups, downs and yawns of
a student singing group

**Will it Snow
for Christmas?**

Renoir, 12, 90 mins
Love and drudgery
in rural France

appetite for carnage is welcome to try *Maximum Risk*, which marks the Hollywood debut of another Hong Kong action director, Ringo Lam. Flying bodies, leaping flames, careening cars: we seem to have been here before. The star, too, is nothing new, for Jean-Claude Van Damme's dramatic range remains millimetres wide. The villains equally come from stock: corrupt FBI agents, remnants of the Russian Mafia.

Van Damme gets thrust among them by a plot device not a million miles removed from that of *Face/Off*. A French cop, he finds himself starting in Nice at the corpse of a twin brother he never knew he had. So off he trots to New York's underworld to impersonate his other self and understand his life. But Lam

**'Silly,
violent'**

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

□ **FACE/OFF**
Jethro Aukin, 18: A sickeningly high body count.
Dom Young, 19: The action just doesn't stop.
Sharada Osman, 19: A silly, violent movie.

Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 19: Good acting would be better placed in a subtler movie.

□ **MAXIMUM RISK**
Jethro: Needed more attention to the script.
Dom: Lacks the humour normally associated with Jean Claude Van Damme movies.

leaves even less time than Woo for contemplating dramatic niceties. The mayhem is staged with authority, but we miss Woo's individual kinks. This is routine fodder for the multiplexes.

Art houses have their fodder too, and with the increasing flow of European money into co-productions we are beginning to spot the tell-tale signs. A worthy subject will be chosen: a literary classic, or some anguish involving the Second World War. The production will be based in Eastern Europe, but all the actors will try to speak English. Good talent is used; but everyone will seem to be working below their best. The film, above all, will appear misbegotten, artificial, starved of life and truth.

Superficially, *The Gambler* fits this template only too well. Dostoevsky is the distinguished source: the film not only adapts the title novel, but wraps around it the story of the book's composition. The director is a veteran Hungarian, Károly Makk. British actors, led by Michael Gambon, potter round the Hungarian sets, pretending to be Russian.

But appearances mislead. Gambon, for one, is ideally cast as the wayward author, as prone to gambling as his book's characters. Jodi May invests Anna — stenographer, helpmeet and Dostoevsky's future wife — with a grave beauty. And there is a formidable appearance by Luise Rainer, scarcely seen since her Hollywood career sputtered to a close in 1943 (see *interview, opposite*). She plays the novel's Grandmother, an imperious moneybags dazzled by the roulette wheel.

The film looks striking, too, as it shuttles between the gloom of Dostoevsky's St Petersburg flat and the bright lights of a German spa town. For a Euro-putting, *The Gambler* is surprisingly tasty.

My Mother's Courage proves less nourishing. The story is true. The time and

**SNAP
VERDICT**

Sharada: Van Damme was gorgeous.
Leslie: A strong contender for the worst movie of the year.

□ **THE GAMBLER**
Jethro: Great performances from Michael Gambon and Jodi May.
Dom: The novel's sense of passion is sadly missing.

Sharada: Fine acting from the under-used Polly Walker.
Leslie: Sticks too close to its literary source.



Nicolas Cage — or is it John Travolta? — and John Travolta — or is it Nicolas Cage? — get the drop on each other in John Woo's *Face/Off*

In at the birth of a notion

This year's silent film festival at Pordenone rolled out the red carpet for the great D.W. Griffith

A man called W.K.L. Dickson stands before us. Handlebar moustache, waistcoat, collar and tie: a late-Victorian kind of gent. The raised hat comes to rest on his outstretched left hand. Photographed around 1891 at the Edison laboratory in West Orange, New Jersey, where he led experiments in making pictures move, he is greeting unseen spectators. His audience in this case consists of scholars, archivists and collectors gathered over a century later for the latest *Giornate del Cinema Muto*, Pordenone's silent film festival.

Watching some of the earliest surviving film is a strange and wonderful experience. We forget *Star Wars* and *Alien*. We forget films can talk, or even tell complicated stories. We are back to square one, with a few short strips of celluloid catching famous persons of the late 19th century, trains arriving, ships leaving, comic pranks with hoses and poles. It is like visiting the Garden of Eden.

This year's edition, the first under the directorship of this newspaper's former film critic, David Robinson, deluged the viewer with arcane celluloid. All the Library of Congress's holdings of motion pictures made by Edison's company between 1890 and 1900 were presented in chronological order (Dickson

raising his hat was the first).

We dipped into the treasures of the Will Day collection, beautifully restored in Paris by the National Cinema Centre, Film Archives. We went up to Blackburn, in Lancashire, to sample the output of the Mitchell and Kenyon company: farces and actualities with a bracing Northern bite. We went to China, too, for some rediscovered features (typical title: *Peach Blossom Weeps Tears of Blood*).

All well and good, but even film scholars need a good night out. The principal focus of this year's event was supposed to fall on D.W. Griffith, titan of cinema, whose complete silent oeuvre Pordenone plans to reassess. He certainly began things with a bang: when you show *The Birth of a Nation* on the big screen, with the Ljubljana Camerata, Labacensis orchestra thundering through John Lanchbery's arrangement of the original score, you must expect all kinds of fireworks.

Not even an Oliver Stone movie can stir as much controversy as Griffith's Civil War epic of 1915. Half of you

sits agog with wonder at the spectacle and technical skill. The other half squirms, horrified by the worshipping treatment of the Ku Klux Klan.

From there we backtracked to Griffith's output of 1908, screened mostly in a side room, watched by a devoted band, notebooks and jorches at the ready. Not that the films were dull: the problem with the prints. Surviving copies of many early American films have come down to us only in "paper prints": rolls of images submitted for copyright purposes to the Library of Congress, printed on to paper. Beginning in the 1940s, the rolls were photographed, thus transferring the images back to celluloid, although often in mangled form. The image is fuzzy, scenes are sometimes out of order, all titles are missing.

Even so, cinema's time-travelling machine worked some of its magic. Griffith's first films plunge us into a bizarre and harsh world where topical concerns of the 1900s merge with popular melodrama. Cypriotes, kidnappers and burglars roam

the streets, causing weak women to quake and strong men to come out fighting. Some films, such as *The Maniac Cook*, seemed a long way from Griffith's maturity; others showed the director making quick strides in developing cinema's grammar.

Aside from Griffith, Pordenone dipped its toes in the uncharted waters of British silent cinema. The man they fished out was Maurice Elvey, a director who might be regarded with more respect had he not made 150 features and a heap of shorts. He was too prolific, too uneven.

The one Elvey film everybody liked was his 1927 version of *Hindle Wakes*, a stage perennial of Lancashire life, filmed with tenderness, wit, and a splendid use of locations. *The Story of David Lloyd George* (1918), recently rescued from oblivion, displayed an epic sweep.

If not every film at Pordenone gave pleasure, the festival awards certainly did. Well-established archives were ignored; the Jean Mitry Prize was shared between Lobster Films of Paris, a small, enthusiastic restoration company, and Britain's John and William Barnes, loving collectors and documentors of early cinema.

GEOFF BROWN

JOHN TRAVOLTA

"THIS IS BRILLIANT!"

"AN ACTION SPECTACULAR WHICH OPERATES ON A LEVEL OF SUSTAINED TONGUE-IN-CHEEK COMEDY"

"A BREATHTAKING AWE-INSPIRING MASTERPIECE...DAZZLING PERFORMANCES"

NICOLAS CAGE

FACE/OFF

A JOHN WOO FILM

SPECIAL PREVIEWS TONIGHT / **AT CINEMAS EVERYWHERE FROM TOMORROW**

Once a star, again a star

Donald Hutera
meets the double
Oscar winner
Luise Rainer,
back in films
after 50 years

Many years ago, a big-eyed, fragile-looking young actress named Luise Rainer earned a place in Hollywood history by becoming the first performer to win an Oscar two years in a row. For a brief time Rainer shone as brightly as Greta Garbo, Joan Crawford or Norma Shearer. In fact, she shared a suite of de luxe dressing rooms with those formidable ladies on MGM's studio lot. "We were just working girls," Rainer says. "We did our duties, and that's it."

Despite her double-Oscar coup, Rainer made too few movies to attain the status of cinema legend. Her spectacular short-lived career — eight films for MGM from 1936 to 1938, plus a final sinker for Paramount in the early 1940s — was basically over before she turned 30. Today, even film buffs can be forgiven for asking: "Luise Rainer — is she still alive?"

The answer is an emphatic yes. Now, pushing 90, and after half a century off the big screen, Rainer has scored what is very likely a record in movie-star comebacks. She has a small but pivotal role in *The Gambler*, a new film based on Dostoevsky's work (see Geoff Brown's review, opposite). Shot in Budapest, this period piece features Rainer as a cunning family matriarch, enthroned in a wheelchair with a jaunty feathered hat perched above a withered yet extraordinarily expressive face.

She seizes the screen from her first entrance. Looking radiant one moment, bereft the next, her avidity at the gaming table keeps the film's dramatic engine from idling. She is so feverishly animated that you cannot take your eyes off her.

Rainer now lives in London, in an Eaton Square building adorned with a blue plaque in honour of Vivien Leigh, another two-time — though not consecutive — Oscar-winner. Interviewing Rainer is akin to a royal audience. Her manner is gracious, occasionally haughty, always passion-



Half a century after her last screen appearance, Luise Rainer is now in *The Gambler*. "I still get fan mail," she says

ate. The day we meet she is struggling with a fit of pique. The producers have sent out invitations for a screening and Rainer's name, at the bottom of the cast list, is in smaller print than the others.

"I'm furious," she says. "I've been living in the background, and that's been fine with me because that's my life. I am a little fly like everybody else. But I still have a name. I'm supposed to be a very good actress. And now when I do something — and for charity money — and I give interviews and help them a great deal... I find this invitation an insult."

Despite her tirade, she is not

a Norma Desmond, spiderishly feeding off memories of lost glory. "Past to me is past," she declares.

Born into a well-to-do German family — "in 1910 or 1912, it's so long ago" — she began working with the celebrated Max Reinhardt when still a teenager. What Rainer calls her "glamourous time" began after a talent scout spotted her onstage in Vienna. After a screen test the next day she accepted an MGM contract.

In California, Rainer was not "immediately" inundated with scripts. She grew "brown as a nut" walking her dog

along the beach. On one of these jaunts, the writer Anita Loos gave her a tip: Myrna Loy's part opposite William Powell in *Escapade* was up for grabs. Rainer landed the role and, thanks to Powell's help, star treatment. It was her first film.

Her next, *The Great Ziegfeld* (1936), brought her first Oscar. Playing the coquettish stage star Anna Held, Rainer was human champagne. Today, this lavish, often tedious musical biography is chiefly remembered for her classic four-hanky telephone scene when Held congratulates her former husband on his new

marriage. Rainer wrote the scene herself.

Next, against objections from studio boss Louis B. Mayer, Irving Thalberg cast Rainer as a virtually speechless Chinese peasant in his costly adaptation of Pearl S. Buck's epic novel, *The Good Earth*. Stoic and persevering this time rather than teary and effervescent, she moved the Academy Award voters yet again. It is a double that few have duplicated — Tom Hanks, recently, Spencer Tracy in 1937 and 1938, Katharine Hepburn in the 1960s — but Rainer set the precedent.

At the height of her fame, Rainer's marriage to the left-wing playwright Clifford Odets began to collapse. Their attraction had been instantaneous and overwhelming, but their union — seemingly done in by jealousy, rivalry and conflicting schedules — lasted barely three years.

Rainer remembers her Hollywood years as a mixed blessing. For her, Tinseltown's golden age was a privileged, pampered prison with Mayer her warden. Other MGM players have eulogised him as a father figure, but Rainer describes him as "a bad stepmother". Foisted off with dire scripts, maltreated by Mayer, trying to cope with her marital break-up, Rainer simply withdrew. "I was in pieces, terribly unhappy and destroyed. I always loved with all my existence. I can't call myself a little naive, but I didn't expect that anything would ever go wrong."

After a trip to Europe, she returned to Hollywood. Following an abortive attempt to play Marie Curie (Greer Garson got the part), she lost the female lead in *For Whom the Bell Tolls* to Ingrid Bergman. "She was wonderful," Rainer says. "Of course I think I also would have been very good. But very different, probably." Later might-have-beens included *La Dolce Vita* — only she refused to go to bed on-screen with Marcello Mastroianni.

Rainer's last Hollywood picture was the 1943 propaganda film *Hostages*. She moved to New York, did some theatre (turning down Tennessee Williams's invitation to appear in *The Glass Menagerie*) and married Robert Knittel, an Englishman who later became a director at Collins Publishing. They had one child. The family lived in England and later Switzerland.

She moved back to London in 1989, after Knittel's death. Nowadays, she attends concerts, exhibitions, films, theatre, the ballet and keeps up with correspondence. "I still get fan mail." She may refer to her Hollywood heyday as "once upon a time", but does not deny its power. "To have been able to reach so many human beings!"

As for her Oscars, perched on a shelf, one is tarnished and slightly shorter than the other. The taller, shinier one is a replacement. The original just crumbled one day. "Yeah," Rainer offers, her mouth split in a sardonic grin. "It got battle fatigue."

"THIS IS THE MOVIE OF THE YEAR"

—Anthony Quinn, L.A. ON SUNDAY

"As unforgettable as *Chinatown*"

—Philip French, THE OBSERVER

"A towering achievement"

—Tom Charity, TIME OUT

"A cinematic treat. Fast, unpredictable, witty"

—Barry Norman, BBC FILM '97

"Stylish, hard and sexy"

—Jason Solomons, DAILY EXPRESS

"Do not miss *L.A. Confidential*"

—Geoff Brown, THE TIMES

"One of the best films that Hollywood has ever produced"

—Christopher Toohey, DAILY MAIL

"Pure Ellroy"

—Richard Williams, THE GUARDIAN



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THE BIGGEST BRITISH
MOVIE SUCCESS
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AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

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ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Change of gear left late

ANDY PHILLIPS/LONDON FEATURES

Fashion played a big part in the London leg of Lisa Stansfield's UK tour. Support act David McAlmont had toned down his stage gear to suit the conservative crowd. Rather than the full-length robes and chunky gold chains he usually sports, McAlmont literally shone in a dazzling white outfit of jeans and corduroy shirt.



Lisa Stansfield's Wembley performance was a game of two halves, with most of the big hits arriving close to extra time

his only concession to glamour a fist full of huge diamond rings. Dressed down, however, McAlmont looked ill-at-ease. A lukewarm reception to even his old hits with Bernard Butler didn't help. Only when he segued one of his own songs into his soaring cover of *Diamonds are Forever* could the audience glimpse his soul diva side. At the end of the set, it took a guitarist chapping his hands above his head to coax a ripple of applause from the half-empty auditorium.

Lisa Stansfield, by contrast, could do no wrong from the second she strode on to the tastefully decorated stage. "This isn't a concert, it's a party," she announced, after opening with a slow song from her current, eponymously titled album. "Get up if you want to dance."

Instantly, fans aged eight to 30 were on their feet as she launched into a couple of mid-tempo funk tunes, including her last single, *The Line*, a commercial failure that nevertheless received a rapturous response. But Stansfield looked almost as uncomfortable as McAlmont. Wearing a slightly too tight trouser suit

and with lashings of glitter on her cheeks, Stansfield spent the first 50 minutes of her set switching slickly between Disney soundtrack-style ballads and slightly faster-paced, R&B-infused pop songs. It was a professional, polished performance that lacked any sense of soul. Even the sassy singalong favourite *Soul*

Deep felt coldly controlled. A calypso-flavoured instrumental break before the final part of the show broke the ice, however. Stansfield seemed to have changed her mood along with her suit. Glad now, in shimmering black, she looked up and smiled. A string of hits such as *The Real Thing*, *Change* and *Live Together*

saw her interact with the eight-piece band for the first time. She boogied with the bassist, purred in the direction of her partner, guitarist Ian Denney, and drew her arms in the air in time with the two backing singers. Oddly, a first encore ended with the former No 1 hit *All Around the World*, which

LISA VERRICO

LONDON

CLOCKS AND CLOUDS Launch of the second part of the international retrospective of music by the contemporary composer György Ligeti. Eos-Pelika Scharoun conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra in a programme which also features works by Bartók and Scriabin. With Masako Uchida, piano. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-860 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm. £

HENRY V Michael Sheen plays the warlike Henry in Ron Daniels's production, not well reviewed in Sheffield, perhaps in better shape after its tour. Good performance by Kame Adenike as Katherine. Barbican, St. Pauls, EC2 (0171-638 8831). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.15pm. mats Thu and Sat, 2pm. Until Nov 22, after which in rep. £

KNIGHT OF SHALOTT The American conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, a seasoned interpreter of Mahler's music, leads the London Symphony Orchestra through the vast landscapes of the Viennese composer's complex and haunting Seventh Symphony. Barbican, St. Pauls, EC2 (0171-638 8831). Tonight, 7.30pm. £

WILLOW GALL The first of a series of fundraising events here, aimed at providing money for a range of future developments at the Hall. Headed by the company's sublime line-up and Anne Evans, Ann Murray and Olaf Bar, performing an equally exquisite programme featuring music by Wagner, Schumann and Rachmaninov. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-625 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm. £

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM A musical rarity is on offer from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra tonight as Lawrence Foster conducts Franz Xaver

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Martin Hargre

Schubert's Piano Concerto No 4 famed by Rossini's *William Tell* Overture and Schumann's *Symphony No 4*. With Stephen Hough, piano. Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm. £

BRISTOL Premier of *The Man With Green Hair*, Nick Drake's comedy based on real events surrounding the chemical contamination of Cornish drinking water a few years back. Andy Hay, director. A cast of eight. Old Vic, King Street (0117 987 7877). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Wed, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Wed, 7.30pm.

OXFORD As part of the city's festival of contemporary music, the BBC Radio 3's new music programme *Heart and Now* comes to town with a concert celebrating the 85th birthday of the distinguished English composer Hugh Wood. The Birmingham Contemporary Music Group under Stefan Asbury performs a selection of Wood's works including the first performance of a new version of the Horn Trio. St. John's Church, Broad Street (01865 798533). Tonight, 8pm. £

LONDON GALLERIES **Barclay James Evans** (0171-638 8831). **Hayward Objects of Desire** (0171-638 3144). **Museum of London** (0171-638 0807). **Stedelijk Museum** (0171-638 0807). **Hogart's Marriage A-la-Mode** (0171-741 2883). **National Portrait Gallery** (0171-638 0807). **Royal College of Art** (0171-638 4444).

Baritone Olaf Bar sings at the Wigmore Hall

THEATRE GUIDE **Jersey Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London**

House full, returns only. Shows available. Seats at all prices.

ELLECTRA Zoe Winters as a powerful and poignant heroine in David Leveaux's production from Chichester. Marjorie Yates plays Clytemnestra. Donmar Warehouse, Euston Road, WC2 (0171-369 1723). Mon-Sat, 8pm. mats Tue and Sat, 4pm. Until Dec 5. £

AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE Ian McKellen plays the spa doctor pitting himself against the community in Trevor Nunn's highly detailed production. Admiralty, Adelphi Theatre (0171-328 2222). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm. mats Sat, 2pm. £

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7.30pm, Thu-Sat, 8pm, mats Thu and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Nov 29.

LEEDS European premiere of Cheryl L West's award-winning *Jer the Floor* concerning an Irish girl who marries an African-American woman from one family. Topher Campbell directs. Quayside Theatre, Leeds (0113 244 2111). Preview on tonight, 7.45pm. Opens Nov 11 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. mats Wed, 2pm and Sat, 3pm. £

MANCHESTER Susan Woodridge plays the desperate Hector in *The Deep Blue Sea*, Rattigan's drama of a lonely respectable married woman who falls hopelessly in love with an ex-pilot. Marianne Elliott directs. Royal Exchange at Upper Campbell Street (0161 638 8833). Preview on tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Nov 11 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Dec 13.

OXFORD As part of the city's festival of contemporary music, the BBC Radio 3's new music programme *Heart and Now* comes to town with a concert celebrating the 85th birthday of the distinguished English composer Hugh Wood. The Birmingham Contemporary Music Group under Stefan Asbury performs a selection of Wood's works including the first performance of a new version of the Horn Trio. St. John's Church, Broad Street (01865 798533). Tonight, 8pm. £

LONDON GALLERIES **Barclay James Evans** (0171-638 8831). **Hayward Objects of Desire** (0171-638 3144). **Museum of London** (0171-638 0807). **Stedelijk Museum** (0171-638 0807). **Hogart's Marriage A-la-Mode** (0171-741 2883). **National Portrait Gallery** (0171-638 0807). **Royal College of Art** (0171-638 4444).

Baritone Olaf Bar sings at the Wigmore Hall

THEATRE GUIDE **Jersey Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London**

House full, returns only. Shows available. Seats at all prices.

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Jigsaw massacre

I Can't Stand Wagner: The Music Shop by Seymour Barab

There are occasions when, as a sane member of the human race, you wonder whether you are actually sitting in a theatre in the here and now or experiencing a hallucination, and this double bill was definitely one of them.

Among Jigsaw Music Theatre's stated aims are to attract new audiences and revitalise music drama, although what Tuesday's offering was supposed to have to do with life, art or indeed audiences under 70 as we stagger through the final years of the 20th century I cannot begin to imagine.

Two American one-acters were given — isn't there enough bad home-grown music theatre without their having to search for the pond? — and the rubric "by arrangement with G. Schirmer Ltd" gave rise to mischievous speculation as to the precise nature of the "arrangement". No one in their right mind could have lighted upon these trifles and thought "gosh, we simply have to stage them". I Can't

stand Wagner by Seymour Barab (b. 1921) has a catchy title and nothing else. *The Music Shop*, by Richard Wargo (b. 1957), is based on a Chekhov playlet. Both are anecdotal sketches, far too wordy to need or indeed sustain any kind of music save for the referential. The Barab is Bernstein-and-water (non-sparkling), the Wargo marginally more substantial but insufferably roguish and relying for laughs on quotations. Both, at around 40 minutes, are mercifully short.

To describe the level of humour in Sarah Jennings's productions as "undergraduate" would be an unpardonable slur on all students past and present. "Embarassingly juvenile" will have to do. The chamber orchestra playing willingly enough for Bruce O'Neil. There were two talented young singers involved, the tenor Henry Moss and the soprano Helen Greenaway — both have real voices and know their way about a stage, and I hope they get some proper work elsewhere.

The most depressing aspect of the evening was another programme rubric. "Funded by the Arts Council of England". Whoever assessed this company and recommended a grant should be told politely but firmly that they are in the wrong job. To have to sit through this tush on the day that the whole structure of opera in London was coming under threat was intolerable.

RODNEY MILNES

Plenty of somethin'

AS GERSHWIN'S opera closes with Porgy and Bess

long his journey will take, you feel you can really believe these performers. This show has been on the road since 1993, and plans for the American production's world tour extend well into the Gershwin centenary next year. Crockett, on a cold and wet evening, cannot have been one of the tour's most exciting stopovers, but the performance lacked nothing in dedication.

Indeed, the freshness and honesty of this *Porgy and Bess* was amazing. There may have been no outstanding voices in Tuesday's cast — many roles are doubled — but all were of a good standard and made a well-integrated ensemble. Even the somewhat erratic lighting and the surely unnecessary amplification did not dilute the power of this masterpiece — a work that, in spite of its famous numbers, is seldom presented complete. Here it is almost complete, and the cuts are of a practical nature.

JOHN ALLISON

ART GALLERIES

PARKIN GALLERY at 7 Nov. Forces Museum, 11 Moorgate, London EC2A 4PU. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. Tel: 235 8144.

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr). **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA** 0171 379 5339. Tickets also available from Ticketmaster 0171 387 4000. Ton, Tues, 7.30, Sat 2.30 & 7.30. Mon, 7.30. **THE MELODY WIDOW**.

THE ROYAL OPERA Box Office 0171 304 4000 at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2A 0AR. Tickets also available from Ticketmaster 0171 387 4000. Ton, Tues, 7.30, Sat 2.30 & 7.30. Mon, 7.30. **THE MELODY WIDOW**.

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THEATRES

ALDWINCH 0171 416 5004 (24hr). **THE BOYS**.

IN THE BAND by MARTIN CRONIN. 11 Nov. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. Tel: 235 8144.

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr). **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA** 0171 379 5339. Tickets also available from Ticketmaster 0171 387 4000. Ton, Tues, 7.30, Sat 2.30 & 7.30. Mon, 7.30. **THE MELODY WIDOW**.

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Bold flights of fancy

A 12-year-old girl, on a school trip somewhere in the North American outback, is grabbed by a man, shoved into a pick-up truck, and driven into the snowy mountains beyond. The police eventually give up the search for the kidnapper and his victim, so the child's mother hires an aviator called Maxine to continue it. Day after day she flies over chasms and round peaks, musing about the various mysteries afflicting her, until... but I shall resist the temptation to reveal the denouement of Ellen McLaughlin's bold but uneven play.

That, anyway, is the situation. It is important to keep sight of it, because *Tongue of a Bird* is apt to waft off into the realms of poesy, fantasy, dream, ghost-story and general airy-fairy. It is not a particularly accessible piece, nor an especially tense one.

Images of loss, flight and quest recur, almost ad absurdum. Birds are sometimes mentioned and occasionally heard. There is a witty great-grandmother in Maxine's background who flew about Poland, apparently in formation with other women. Her grandma, Miriam Karlin's Zofia, goes in for a sort of mental time-travel. Her mother, who committed suicide when she was a child, was a madwoman given to running away at night and, so it seems, having out-of-body experiences. If McLaughlin had introduced Maxine's third cousin twice removed, she would have turned out to be a glider pilot with hopes of one day being reincarnated as a butterfly; or so I felt after spending two hours in this self-conscious pile-up of family oddity and winged pain.

Deborah Findlay's Maxine spends some of her time at her plane's controls, at one point with the apparatus of the child seated beside her, and some of it in bed, often with her dead mother hovering on wires above her, dressed in an airperson's garb. It cannot be easy to sustain emotional discipline and drive under such circumstances, especially when McLaughlin asks her to say things like "there's a hole in the sky, it's the hole you made in your passage out of the world". Yet Findlay brings a plausible desperation to Maxine's attempts to understand the parent who rejected her by hanging



Aviator Maxine (Deborah Findlay) taking wing over her grandmother Zofia (Miriam Karlin) in *Tongue of a Bird*

With even its scene-shifters adding to the calculatedly spooky atmosphere by gliding about the sparsely furnished all-white set, one is grateful for his — and even more so for the reality that Melanie Hill brings to the role of Zofia, the mother of the abducted child. That is less of a challenge, since she expresses her grief in no-nonsense English rather than in lamentations for "the terrible aching vastness, which is your absence from me". But her splendidly blunt, unpretentious acting combines with her old woolly jumper, her pale, round face and bunch of thick brown hair to create a refresh-

ingly truthful impression: of a very ordinary woman coping and failing to cope with unimaginable anguish.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

West End variety is live and kicking

An old-fashioned genre is being reborn at London's Vaudeville Theatre. Benedict Nightingale reports

Edward Snape, at 31 one of the youngest and brightest of our producers, began his career by running a traditional end-of-the-pier show in Cromer — you know, onstage offstage, on off, on off, good old variety, one of the last of its kind. Many of the comic acts he presented would not muster these days, least of all in a sophisticated West End, but they left him with a love for the immediacy and a respect for the risk of live performance.

Television, where the fun is almost always canned, strikes him as no substitute, and the alternative comedy circuit as clunky and peripheral.

Hence the series of seasons, starting on December 9 with Julian Clary's new one-man show, that Snape is to mount at London's aptly named Vaudeville Theatre. Part of the plan is to bring some of the more theatrical "alternative" comics out of their lairs and into a mainstream playhouse, but his aims go beyond this. The Right Size's Do You Come Here Often?, a sort of post-Beckett, post-Python farce about two men shut in a bathroom, opens in January, and there is even a possibility of a punk circus eventually joining the jollifications.



First in the new line-up: Julian Clary

It's a case of variety is dead, long live variety," says Snape. "We're looking for performers and groups who thrive on spontaneity, can relate directly to audiences, especially younger audiences, and have it, whatever it is. We're looking for the new, harder-edged comedy of today: people like Clary or David Baddiel or of course Lily Savage, who has a theatrical extravagance and a sense of humour that come from a rough, working-class Liverpool upbringing."

Baddiel and Savage are not yet in the frame, but plenty of others are. Those now considering firm offers to appear in the opening season range from Jenny Eclair to David Benson, creator of a one-man show about Kenneth Williams called *Think No Evil*, and from Alan Davies to the pianist David Helfgott and the veteran mouth-organist Larry Adler, who hope to collaborate on a centenary tribute to Gershwin. The emphasis on youth does not preclude appearances by per-

less than daunting £18. But is this yet another example of dumbing-down in the West End? There might be a case to answer if there were fewer than 42 theatres in the commercial sector and if there were loads of straight yet potentially profitable plays clamouring for a place in the West End sun; but that is not so. Anyway, there were always plenty of revues on offer in the 1940s and 1950s, when Shaftesbury Avenue was where you would have expected to find new work by Priestley, Elliot, Katigian and Fry.

Live at the Vaudeville, as Snape's enterprise will be called, may be seen as a raunchy modern substitute for that half-forgotten genre. Moreover, each season will run only from the autumn to the spring. Snape's publicity coyly says that "negotiations are under way with a national theatre company to play during the summer months". Translated, that seems to mean that the BBC may use the Vaudeville as a Barbican substitute for part of the period it is out of London, starting with a revival of Peter Whelan's fine play, *The Herbal Bed*.

But then, the hope is that the Vaudeville will have gained a reputation for up-to-the-minute variety; and not only with the theatregoing public. Why not Sunday night TV shows in which Ardal O'Hanlon, Greg Proops and the other comedians Snape hopes to attract are seen fencing with their audiences? "But this couldn't be pre-recorded," he says. "The excitement and danger of performance is always lost that way. It must be live at the Vaudeville."

© Vaudeville Theatre, The Strand, WC2 3JF (071-436 9987)

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Holliger, Tchaikovsky and the real Nigel Kennedy

HEINZ HOLLIGER
Lieder ohne Worte
Zehetmair/Larcher/Holliger
ECM New Series 1618 457
066-2 *** £15.49
HEINZ HOLLIGER's fame as the world's greatest oboist does not eclipse his formidable skill as a composer, but we hear his music all too seldom. ECM has championed his works on disc, and its new album of *Songs without Words* focuses on Holliger's penchant for making textless interpretations of poetry.

Two sets of *Lieder ohne Worte* for violin and piano frame this exciting recital. The first group (1931-33) are fugitive, melancholy songs shaped by the finest nuances and shadings. Titles like *Frühlingstied* and *Flammen*. Schnee focus the expression of the concentrated yet emotionally luxuriant second group (1938-44). The violinist Thomas Zehetmair is ideally cast to bring them to life.

Zehetmair makes Holliger's *Trema* (1981-3) into a terrifying endgame of skin-splitting tremolandi in a shimmering web of sound. The spare harp writing of the *Sequenzen über Johannes 1. 32*, played by Ursula Holliger, could not be in greater contrast.

JOHN HIGGINS
THE TCHAIKOVSKY EXPERIENCE
ROH Orch/Jarvi
Conifer/Royal Opera House
75005 5522-2 *** £15.49
FAMILIAR and unfamiliar Tchaikovsky rub shoulders in an adaptable selection, expertly conducted by Neeme Järvi and played with great warmth by Covent Garden's orchestra. Each of the composer's ten peras is represented, including the early *Undine* which is later destroyed. The young first soprano, Marina Shagun, and another recent

arrival on the operatic scene, Inessa Galante, take top honours. Shagun is the gusher and more dramatic performer, delighting in Oksana's self-admiring aria from *Vakula the Smith*. Galante is made for Tchaikovsky's nervier heroines: Joan's farewell to her native woods in *The Maid of Orleans* and Tatyana's letter song from *Onegin*. Grave and bold contributions come from Sergei Leiferkus, rather rougher ones from the tenor Alexander Fedin.

The issue is marked by a shame-making booklet from Conifer. No indication of who sings what, no texts of the arias, and by the way, Conifer, Riga is not in Estonia.

ORCHESTRAL
Barry Millington

ELGAR/VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
Violin Concerto; The Lark Ascending
Kennedy/Rattle/CBSO
EMI CDC 5 56413 2 *** £14.49

FORGET the hype: this is the genuine article. "Kennedy" as he prefers to be called in his latest incarnation, accompanied by Sir Simon Rattle in a brand new reading of Elgar's Violin Concerto that is rich in poetic insights.

The tone can be spiky (perhaps the recording is partly responsible), but it can also be sweet and supremely lyrical. In the slow movement, in particular, Kennedy modulates with assurance between grand rhetorical passion and inner reverie, while Rattle gives him every opportunity to tap this ruminative vein, arresting progress long enough for expressive points to be made. The finale's accompanying cadenza is rightly the apogee of this introspective approach, rather than mere pyrotechnical display.

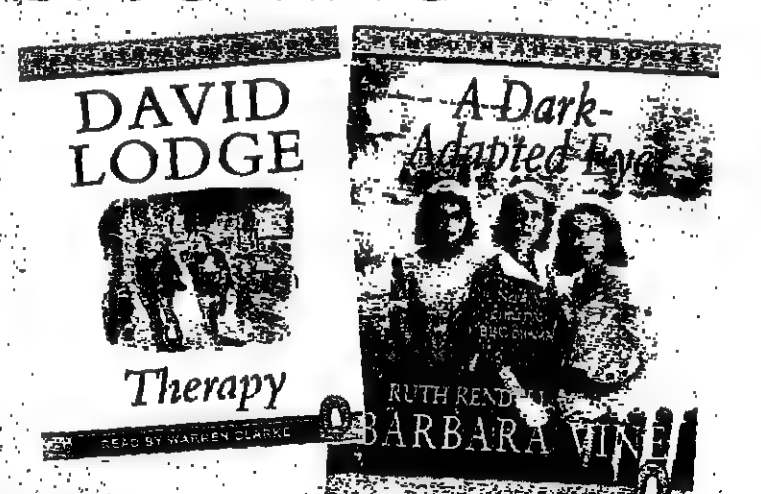
★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
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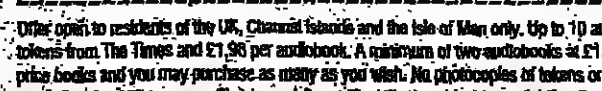
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On a journey through the City and the East End, Peter Ackroyd finds that the spirit of London is able to transcend time

Historic home town of griffin and phoenix

Those who wonder why the City of London has chosen a griffin as its talisman will have their question answered by Pevsner and Bradley's book. That fabulous creature was, of course, the ferocious guardian of gold and buried treasure: it is placed at the boundaries of the old city, therefore, as a warning and a reminder. The area has been the centre of commerce for 2,000 years; from the first coin stamped with "Moneta Londini" to the most recent building clad in aluminium or sea green-glass, it has been a city established upon money and upon power.

And so in this revised edition of Pevsner's guide there are as many banks as churches — it is sometimes difficult to distinguish the difference — and the history of architecture also becomes the history of finance. Its maps themselves reveal how London has moved steadily outward in successive waves of development and destruction. John Stow lamented the "continual building of garden houses and small cottages" in the 16th century, while more

THE BUILDINGS OF ENGLAND
London I: The City
By Simon Bradley and Nikolaus Pevsner
Penguin, £30
ISBN 0 14 01092 2

THE EAST END Then and Now
By Winston G. Ramsey
After the Battle, £39.95
ISBN 0 9000 1399 1

than a century later Defoe marvelled at the prodigious extension of "this monstrous city". Eventually it became the "Great Oven" or the "Wen", a "Babylon" more vast and magnificent than its predecessor. It was the remorseless product of what Simon Bradley, in his excellent introduction, describes as "bewildering growth". That is why it is often compared to a labyrinth, or an uncharted sea dangerous for all those who choose to venture upon it.

The City is a wonderfully produced version of Pevsner's great guide, while its extensive revision and elaboration testify to the growth of its subject.

The earlier volume included Westminster, but this most recent edition is concerned only with the City where "half the office space was rebuilt between 1985 and 1993". There has been nothing like it since the Great Fire.

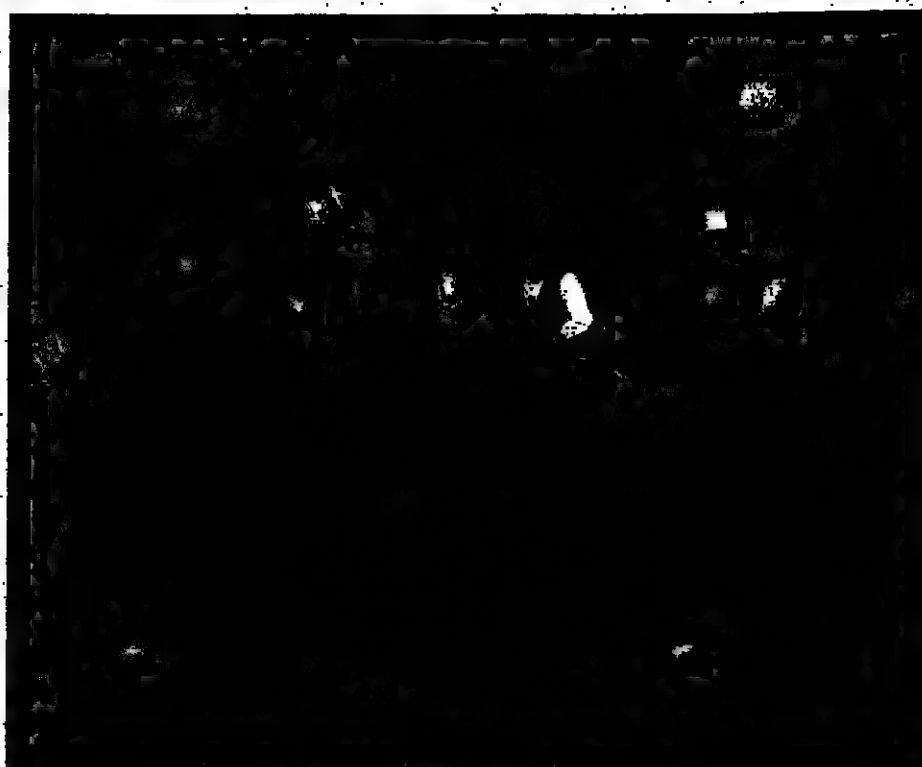
Fire has always marked its history, of course, from the depredations of Boadicea to those of the Luftwaffe and the IRA. Yet it rises from its ruins in even greater splendour; it is not surprising that the most famous fire-insurance and fire-fighting office in the City should have been known as the "Phoenix". There have in turn been attempts to rebuild its streets and houses according to some visionary plan (Wren's being the finest example), while the local interests of ward and speculators have effectively prevented any such grandiose development.

For that reason it has preserved its identity for longer than any other urban area in the world. Its street plan in part still follows Saxon and medieval precedent, while the character of its buildings remains heterogeneous and often haphazard. It has always been an ugly city; it has always

been the product of reconstruction bordering upon vandalism: it has always been a savage and secretive place.

The new buildings along Wormwood Street and the Minories provide a bulwark as great as any Roman wall, while the most recent structures testify to that pagan quality which other writers have discerned in the darkness of Lombard Street or Stew. Alley. Simon Bradley notes the pyramids and hanging gardens which have created a second Babylon, with new buildings of Egyptian, or "glamorous and fairly sinister" appearance echoing the "Hindoo-Gothic" of another period. The forms of the Barbican are for him "cyclopean", while its aesthetic is that of the Sublime. This is the true spirit of the city in which monumental styles of the past are plundered to convey the impression of magnificence in the most theatrical manner. It is the city of spectacle as well as of Mammon.

The East End Then and Now performs a different but not less instructive act of historical retrieval. In this unique volume, maps and



Rat Catching at the Blue Anchor Tavern, Bunhill Row, Finsbury, circa 1850-52, from *London in Paint* by Mireille Gaimou and John Hayes, Museum of London, £55

photographs of every part of the East End have been aligned with newspaper reports, antiquarian accounts and cockney autobiographies. There is room here for endless contemplation. When five photographs from different decades of the notorious "Chinatown" in Limehouse are placed together, for example, we become aware of a

district in some sense still haunted by the shape of its own past. It also becomes clear, in this constant comparison of old and new, that London has evolved into an infinitely lighter and more open city.

It is no longer so picturesque, of course, but who would dream of inhabiting a 19th-century photograph?

There is nothing remotely quaint about the tower blocks and council estates of Hackney or Stepney, but they in turn will be replaced by structures of quite another kind. They were a necessary stage in the evolution of the East End, where there is now less death, disease and poverty.

There are, in any case, arresting continuities. The

police check point at Aldgate is noted by Winston Ramsey to be "on the same site as the old gateway". Hyman's tailor shop in Whitechapel has now become an Asian fashion warehouse. Police security lights from the 1880s, in the area of the Ripper killings, have been transformed into "floodlights and video cameras".

But there are more general suggestions of what must be called the spiritual topography of a location may change but, in many instincts the nature of the site remains the same. A place where many children died, in the First World War, is still a waste ground with strange graffiti inscribed upon a nearby wall. Not so far distant a great plague pit, mentioned by Defoe, remains a melancholy space used only as a car park. Chinatown may now be known as "Pennyfields", but Asian youths still linger in small groups among the council houses. Perhaps we might return to the City itself, and note that the famous Lloyd's Building is on the same spot where once the great maypole of London was erected.

In one of his aesthetic studies Nikolaus Pevsner tried to identify "the line of beauty" within English painting; these two books suggest that he might also have found that traditional line of harmony and continuity in less favoured circumstances.

Sky is not the limit

Julia

Blackburn on a strangely earthbound anthology

In 1804 Sir George Cayley published his findings on heavier-than-air flight and looked forward to the time when the "uninterrupted navigable ocean that comes to the threshold of every man's door will be a source of human gratification and advancement". It was 99 years before this dream was realised and the Wright brothers made a rather precarious entry into the wild blue yonder.

I had presumed that a book on aviation would begin with a melting Icarus, a vaulting Munchausen and a far-sighted Leonardo, interspersed with the universality of dreams of flying, but here the machine is only included once it has developed stiff wings and has given up trying to flap. So it means we are contained within this century; and as Graham Coster remarks rather ruefully in his introduction, it is surprising how infrequently flying has inspired this century's writers.

The early history of aviation was occupied by brave pioneers and flight was a solitary business for the simple reason that only one person could fit into the cockpit. Whether that person was any good with words was another matter. Lindbergh was not, nor was Amelia Earhart although she recently won herself an eloquent voice in the novel *I Was Amelia Earhart* by Jane Mendelsohn.

This collection of prose and poetry includes some wonderful accounts of flying, being flown and being flown over. Beryl Markham describes going non-stop from Abingdon, England, to a nameless swamp in Newfoundland, with the bucketing of a storm and the fuel tank running dry. St-Exupéry succeeds in his

exquisite prose to put words to the experience of being caught in the heart of a cyclone.

Moving towards the Second World War and its fighter bombers, there is a devastating account of the destruction of Guernica, while the journalist Martha Gellhorn "sits on a wobbly crate in the middle of heaven, having decided against her better judgment to experience night flying in a Black Widow".

But then a number of chapters like Biggles are allowed to join in and although I suppose they give balance to the picture as a whole, I did tire of the complacent "us against them" approach. I longed to hear something like Sieve Smith's humanity and humour in her poem about an old man making love to a young girl while the German bombers drone overhead and the English bombers set out for Germany: "Harry, do they ever collide? I do not think it has ever happened. Oh my bride, my bride."

With the development of technology, aerial warfare has taken on the mindless efficiency of a computer game, but the material included on this



The prince and the pilot from Heinemann's new edition of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince* £20

aspect of aviation was for me a disappointment. There must be some verbal approximation of the opening scene of *Apocalypse Now*, and even an excerpt from an advertising brochure on Stealth bombers would have said a lot.

Coster describes the airplane as the "Post-Modern translation of Don Quixote's horse: the transport to romantic and capricious adventure". But in spite of Bill Buford's football hooligans being sick in the aisles or Nicholson Baker's meditations on ventilation nozzles, there is nothing

quixotic about being a passenger on a modern airline, strapped into something like a dentist's chair, passively suspended out of time and place. Certainly there is departure and there is arrival, but the area in between has no real substance to it beyond the vague image of clouds and distant land surfaces; darkness and the movie on the overhead screen. V.S. Naipal said air travel helped him to understand the idea of homelessness: perhaps that is the best that can be said about this strange limbo called flight.

could work wonderfully well, as it does in Emily Brontë's love-poems, or in Tess Gallagher's poems written for Raymond Carver.

Yet here, there is a strange stiltedness. The poems don't come close. Certainly, it isn't easy to make the sealed world of two lovers interesting to those outside the charm. The sense of "we" — so palpably vital to the couple concerned — does not necessarily hold any meaning for others. At worst, the reader may feel like a voyeur. If the poem does not offer an imaginative space which can be entered by others, and can kindle the imaginations of others, then it remains a notebook piece, however accomplished it may be.

There are two and a half lines in a poem called *No Particular Horse*, which sum up Greenlaw's strengths and show, perhaps, that she is thwarting herself in much of *A World Where News Travelled Slowly*. The poem wants to be about the quality of horses, so it sets itself to escape from writing about a particular horse. But it cannot escape. Here is the real horse, and the real poet: "Running my hand/along the hooked spine of a broken-backed/roan crippled by a bite from his father."

Too swift to be sure

Helen Dunmore

A WORLD WHERE NEWS TRAVELLED SLOWLY

By Lavinia Greenlaw

Faber, £6.99
ISBN 0 571 19160 6

A first collection of poems may have many weaknesses, but its strength is that it brings together the best poems of five years or a decade. No one has hurried these poems into print, or pressured the writer with the idea that she is this kind of poet, or that. The second collection is usually more problematic. Lavinia Greenlaw's *A World Where News Travelled Slowly* is a book about being changed and remade by love. From one poem to another there runs a story which is half-hidden, half-transparent. This

IN A recent interview with Tim Kendall in the poetry magazine *Thumbcrew*, Lavinia Greenlaw responded with pleasure to the suggestion that her new poems were more engaged, more openly emotional than those in her first collection. "I'm glad you sensed this it is what I have hoped for." Poets tend to acquire labels which have more to do with the convenience of those who are trying to sell the books than with the poet's own intentions. Greenlaw's first collection, *Night Photograph*, was published in 1993: the pitch for its contents became that she was a poet who wrote about science.

This was not untrue. In several poems, ideas drawn from astronomy, medicine or physics gave birth to metaphor. Paired stars which cannot "touch or part" reminded the poet of a past lover whose magnetism can never increase or decrease. The cool delicacy of the reminder was part of the poem's appeal. *Night Photograph* was a precise and entertaining book, especially when Greenlaw went rapidly into reverse at the very moment when she seemed about to meet her reader's expectations. Suddenly you saw that she was gently mocking the set-up: "You thought the poem was about this. But really, it is about that!"

In a secret world

Scott Bradford

THE AGE OF WIRE AND STRING

By Ben Marcus

Flamingo, £12.99
ISBN 0 00 225609 9

THIS is a first book by a young author that doesn't explain itself too quickly. A self-described "catalog of the life process in the Age of Wire and String," it neither tells a story, nor evokes a single human character. Instead, like a parody of objectivity, it assembles a series of technical monographs on topics as oddly disparate as *The Death of Water, Dog, Mode of Heat Transfer in Barking, and The Food Costumes of Montana*.

At first glance, the prose is hard, angular and uninviting. Eventually, though, the dispassionate images build up lyrical intensity. "You catch a few unauthorised glimpses of a secret world hidden inside this one. Then you run head-on into another enigma, such as the following definition of coughing: 'Device for transporting people or goods from one level to another.' And you're lost all over again."

Some early passages read like old-fashioned Surrealism, such as the following from *Intercourse with Resuscitated Wife*: "Superstitious act designed to insure safe operation of household machinery. Electricity mourns the absence of the energy form (wife) within the household's walls by snailing its flow to the outlets. As such, an improvised friction needs to take the place of electricity... This is achieved with the dead wife. She must be found, revived, and then penetrated until heat fills the

room, until the toaster is shooting bread onto the floor, until she is smiling beneath you with black teeth and grabbing your bottom."

This is the closest any passage comes to a vital "scene". But as this genuinely original book progresses, you learn to doubt the sense he makes of it. And you realise that the old, familiar words you thought you knew mean something else entirely. Words like "wife", "man", "boy", "person", "weather", and even "Ohio". It's not that the words mean nothing, it's that they mean exactly what the book's narrator wants them to mean. And this narrator could be language itself.

The Age of Wire and String is a convincing, gasping book in which subjective states are translated into will-less objects. And while it may seem simply offbeat, it possesses the sort of disorientational might expect from a follower of the French *Oulipo* movement or of the so-called "Marxian" school of poets. It may not be an easy book to understand. But it's definitely a book that understands itself.

First blush of genius

Richard Cork

THE SHAMEFUL LIFE OF SALVADOR DALI

By Ian Gibson

Faber, £30
ISBN 0 571 16751 9

ANYONE unacquainted enough to write a life of Salvador Dali must be aware, at the outset, of the exhibitionist's own memoirs. Ian Gibson's impressive book begins by admitting that *The Secret Life of Salvador Dali*, written by the artist in 1942, is a biographical minefield.

Seemingly outspoken, it distorts the truth in a thousand sneaky, self-serving ways. Dali even lied about his elder brother, the first Salvador, who died when only 22 months old. The loss devastated his mother, who gave birth to the real Salvador nine months later, in May 1904. But Dali claimed that his brother had lived to the age of seven, and that his parents were guilty of a subconscious crime by expecting him to compete with an idealised memory of their gifted and precocious lost child.

In reality, Dali's mother was over-protective. She greeted him each morning with the doting words: "Sweet heart, what do you desire?" So he grew into "an outrageously spoilt monster, thwarted only by the onset of a chronic sense of shame. Gibson is fascinated by this curious affliction. He emphasises how rare such an emotion is in Spain, where children are encouraged to show off. Dali soon felt acute shame about being ashamed, and made every attempt to mask it. He developed a phobia about his meddlesome tendency to blush, and the fearfulness of his irascible notary father added to the young Dali's anxieties.

Relief was provided by summers spent in the coastal village of Cadaques. It was Dali's boyhood paradise. This remarkable stretch of the Iberian peninsula played a decisive role in his development. Cape Creus, a massive rocky headland which he later described as "a grandiose geological detritus", inspired many of the nightmarish landscapes in his finest paintings. But it did nothing to lessen his self-consciousness. As an adolescent, he could only cope with public appearances by making a melodramatic fool of himself. He specialised in throwing himself off staircases and surviving intact.

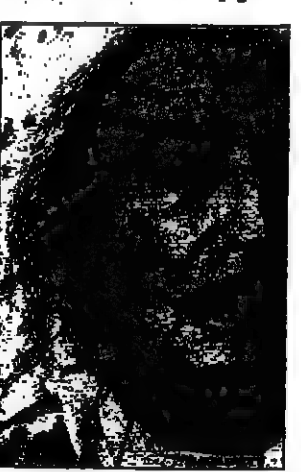
Such stunts were the precursors of Dali's adult exhibitionism, and boosted confidence in his overheated imagination. When his father decided to send him to the prestigious Royal Academy Special School of Painting, Sculpture and Engraving in Madrid, the 16-year-old Dali predicted in his diary that "I'll be a genius, and the world will admire me. Perhaps I'll be despised and misunderstood, but I'll be a genius, a great genius, I'm certain of it."

He flourished in Madrid, especially after befriending two even more gifted students: Buñuel and Lorca. These three extraordinary young men benefited from the stimulus of each other's company, and Lorca seems to have fallen passionately in love with Dali. When Lorca tried to consummate their relationship, though, Dali drew back. He always ferociously resisted the strong homosexual side of his nature, and throughout his life could "only... reach... orgasm through masturbation. He also suffered from what anti-

ety about the size of his penis, describing it as "small, pitiful and soft." Gibson proves an illuminating guide to the way Dali's tortured sexuality affected his best paintings, riddled as they are with images of flaccid, melting immobility.

His period as a memorable artist did not last long. After protracted success in Paris, where he was lionised by the Surrealists, Dali deteriorated. His father rejected him after discovering that Dali, in a Paris exhibition, had scrawled on one of his paintings: "I spit for pleasure on the portrait of my mother." The family was further enraged by his liaison with Gala, the man-devouring wife of the Surrealist Paul Eluard.

Dali and Gala stayed together, on and off, for the rest of their lives, although she had plentiful affairs with toyboys. Acting for many years as Dali's agent as well, she shared his insatiable appetite for cash. The richer they grew,



Dali: natural show-off

the more Dali's art declined. André Breton, the high priest of Surrealism, nicknamed Dali with an inspired anagram: "Avida Dollars." Appalled by the artist's anti-Semitism and affiliation with Franco, Breton finally excommunicated Dali from the Surrealist faith. But neither he nor Gala cared. After their move to the United States in 1940, he degenerated into a vulgar travesty of his younger self.

Gibson is frank about the ghostliness of Dali's later life, and devotes a sharply decreasing amount of space to the showman's tedious, grotesque antics. He is right to do so. The ageing Dali even resorted to signing blank sheets of paper for others to commercially exploit. It seems fitting that he planned to install, outside his own bizarre museum in Figueras, a "vomitorium" so that departing visitors could throw up at their ease.

Near the end, he made legal provision for his face to be covered when he died — an astonishing decision for an incurable exhibitionist to make. Perhaps, like Dorian Gray, he wanted to hide the full extent of his physical and moral corruption from the rest of the world. By then, however, it was far too late.

Milk and cookies again

Elaine Showalter reveals that normal is as normal does

The life of the sexologist, modern biographer has taught us, is not always spotless. Magnus Hirschfeld, Havelock Ellis, even Masters and Johnson, had their little quirks. But somehow Alfred Kinsey, the American "high priest of sexual liberation" escaped scandal until now. Whether because of his sturdy good looks, his well-published family life, or his Midwestern base in Bloomington, Indiana, Kinsey managed to combine a career of personal sexual research and erotic collecting with a reputation of what *Time* magazine called "almost monotonous" normality. Kinsey died in 1956 as an esteemed American man of science.

An article in the August 25 *New Yorker* by Kinsey's biographer James Jones exploded that myth, revealing that Kinsey had been a homosexual masochist and adulterer, whose method of assembling data was less scientific than partisan. Jones started studying Kinsey in 1970 — interviews in the bibliography date from 1971 — and has had access to all correspondence and files at the Kinsey Institute. He has written an intellectual biography of Kinsey and his circle of male researchers, and placed their work in the contexts of American culture before the Pill, before the women's movement, the sexual revolution or Aids.

Jones calls Kinsey's life "a uniquely American saga". A blond, sturdy New England lad, an East Coast with a passion for collecting stamps and butterflies, he rebelled against his stern father's plan that he should become an engineer. Instead, he studied biology, obsessively investigated the behaviour of gall wasps, and went on to be a collector of human sexual histories, gathered from research in universities, gay subcultures, brothels, Sunday school classes, and prisons. A product of the American Progressive Era, Kinsey celebrated marriage as the most efficient management of human society. His life and work echoed the stories of Sherwood Anderson about lonely spinners and homosexuals in Winesburg, Ohio. Kinsey was the Sinclair Lewis of an erotic Main Street, where upright bankers and lawyers had sex with animals, prostitutes, and each other. Jones says that Kinsey understood that "Americans were a people with secrets" and himself "embodied the contradictions between public persona and the hidden self".

Kinsey certainly had plenty of secrets. Although his Bowdoin College brothers thought he would be "quite a man" if he would just "loosen up", behind the collegiate facade of New England shyness and propriety Kinsey had already begun to develop his views that religion was the cause of sexual repression and



Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey, seated left, and his main co-authors at the 1953 conference at Indiana University's Institute for Sex Research

to form his mission to flee America from its guilt and shame. He was also a chronic masturbator, repressed homosexual and budding masochist who specialised in inserting objects into his urethra. Kinsey managed both to indulge his secret desires and to publish himself for them. A patient, Mr Y, recalled that Kinsey always had "a long-suffering look on his face when he was having sex." Jones reports — can this be true? — that Kinsey

ALFRED C. KINSEY
A Public/Private Life
By James H. Jones
Norfolk, £29.95
ISBN 0 303 04080 0

had circumscribed himself with a penknife in a bathtub. He took a cold shower every morning his entire life.

Amazingly, in 1940, he was teaching a graphically illustrated course about sex and marriage to a students at Indiana University, perhaps, one visitor noted, "the last place in the world one would expect." Yet students seemed thrilled by the experience. "To me the behavior of the penis was already awe-inspiring, now it seems even more wonderful," gushed one coed. Jealous colleagues, nervous administrators and suspicious trustees eventually forced him to abandon the course, and emphasize research. But his "male volume" — the *Kinsey Report on Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* — published in January 1948, became an

instant best-seller, despite moral objections from critics as diverse as Margaret Mead and Norman Vincent Peale.

His statistics about widespread homosexual experience went a long way towards changing public understanding and tolerance. Yet these statistics were fundamentally flawed. Kinsey did not use random sampling, but cluster interviewing — surveying an entire gay subculture, an undergraduate class or a prison ward.

He based much of his information on the sexual behaviour of children and adolescent boys on the testimony of paedophiles. Despite its bias, the report was a liberating intervention for its time. Lionel Trilling saw the *Kinsey Report* as a characteristically American document, expressing a "democratic pluralism" in the field of sexuality and a generous desire "for others not to be harshly judged."

Kinsey saw himself as Galileo or Darwin but he emerges from this biography more like a cult leader or the educator in a Joe Orton farce, gardening in a lotus cloth after Sunday church, swimming in the nude with his children. He enjoyed whipping out his very large genitalia at any pretext. Kinsey recruited his male colleagues on the basis of their ability, loyalty and open-mindedness and demanded that they get his advance approval for any extramarital affair. They accompanied him on "research trips" to various gay communities, red light districts or prisons.

Yet while they admired or even adored him, their wives detested him. They were pressured into participation in his sex research, from giving detailed interviews of their sexual histories to sleeping with Kinsey or his colleagues, to being filmed masturbating or having group sex. "He was a dirty old man," one wife told Jones. Another complained that she felt under "sickening pressure" to have sex on film with her spouse and other staff members because "her husband's career at the Institute depended on it." Kinsey did not view this as coercion, but as a mutual absence of shame or guilt.

Jones gives a disturbing account of Kinsey's relationship with his wife Clara. Outwardly, the Kinseys were an "ideal" couple who called each other "Mac" and "Prok" and shared an enthusiasm for nudism, group sex and sexual experimentation. In 1939, Clyde Martin, Kinsey's student research assistant and lover, expressed interest in sex with 42-year-old Clara. According to Jones, she "happily consented". One staffer said Clara would have cut her wrists if Kinsey had asked her to. She also served milk, home-baked cookies and her famous persimmon pudding to refresh nude sex performers between takes, delivered clean towels and changed the sheets. She was filmed masturbating and having sex with Wardell Pomeroy, the most sexually athletic of the staff members. Pomeroy selflessly offered to

have sex with a female friend in front of everyone, and did, as Kinsey gave detailed close-up commentary on the signs of sexual arousal. Other spouses on the team were less cooperative. In the 1940s, Kinsey's married associate Paul Gebhard started an affair with Clyde Martin's wife Alice, which Martin said made him feel that his "world was crumbling". In 1949, when all the Kinsey staff were participating in filmed sexual encounters, Martin and Alice refused. What Mrs Gebhard thought we do not know.

Like Kinsey himself, Jones is scientific and unjudgmental, and innocent in his temperate use of double entendres. (He notes that Kinsey's male colleagues "bent over back-

wards" to accommodate the great man. Indeed.) He offers a range of generous hypotheses for the behaviour of all involved. But readers will notice that two of Kinsey's three surviving children refused to be interviewed for the book and Jones did not have access to the correspondence between Alfred and Clara. Kinsey's odd combination of scientific curiosity and media management, of devotion to individual freedom in principle and disregard for individual autonomy in his own family and circle, makes him a fascinating subject, and at least one more biography by Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy, in the works. This secret life, I suspect, has yet to be fully revealed.

Risk running in a rat race

Howard Davies wipes the dealers' blood off his loafers

F.I.A.S.C.O. is a nasty little book. But however nasty in both tone and content, it is not without merit, or interest.

First, though, the nastiness. Partnoy, who must now be just — a thirtysomething, spent the early 1990s trading derivatives on Wall Street for Morgan Stanley. By his account, he was a successful member of Morgan's Derivative Products Group and made a good few millions for the firm putting together exotic packages, mainly built around doubtful Latin American bonds, and selling them on to gullible North American pension funds and insurance companies.

But the glamour and the monster bonuses (though Partnoy coyly draws a veil over how much he personally made) were not enough. He wanted fame, and royalties too. So this is a fearless exposé

see why the publisher persevered. F.I.A.S.C.O. has two redeeming features. Partnoy is good at explaining the process of constructing swaps, options and the other exotica of the market. Of course he ought to be, having been directly employed on the shop floor, so to speak. But in fact it is rare to find such straightforward explanations of these transactions. If you have always wanted to know how to put together a LIBOR — a cubed swap, this is the book for you.

More importantly, Partnoy does raise, albeit in over-dramatised prose, the crucial questions: who should buy these instruments, and why? He argues that most Wall Street sales people could not care less who bought, and are cheerfully prepared to fill the socks of supposedly risk adverse public employees pension funds with

highly leveraged products on which they might, and often do, lose their blue-collar shirts.

The book is gossip, rather than evidence, but there have been important cases in the United States — Orange County and Procter and Gamble, to name but two — where brokers obsessively focused on their next bonus put their clients into wholly unsuitable investments. The Hammersmith and Fulham swap case here was another case in point.

These are, of course, wholesale markets with professionals on both sides of the deal. *Caveat emptor* is the cry. But perhaps this book will inspire some of the less enlightened derivatives employers to think harder about the risks they want to run. If so, Partnoy will have done something worthwhile, at last.

Howard Davies is Chairman of the Financial Services Authority.

F.I.A.S.C.O.
Blood in the Water
on Wall Street
By Frank Partnoy
Profile, £16.99
ISBN

First blush of genius

Richard Co.

Just stick with the story

Thanks to his mother's second husband, Paul Auster got a job on a ship. The year was 1969; Auster had just done his stint at Columbia University. The ship was the *Eso Florence*, an oil tanker that plied the waters between the Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico; his first taste of the romance of the sea involved mopping floors, scrubbing toilets and making beds. Auster, Jewish and with a college degree, was an oddity among the hardened Louisiana and Texas crewmen. He knew they would be curious about him, but he determined to keep things honest: "It would have been easy to make up stories about myself, but I had no interest in doing that."

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Erica Wagner

HAND TO MOUTH
A Chronicle of
Early Failure
By Paul Auster
Faber, £15.99
ISBN 0 571 17149 4

Really? The Auster devotees might be tempted to inquire. For Auster has proved himself the American master of the Post-Modern nod and wink, introducing himself, one might be led to believe, in various aspects in his various books. One Paul Auster makes a sly appearance in *The New York Trilogy*; the narrator of *Leviathan* is introduced as P.A. That book tells "the true story" of P.A.'s best friend, a writer called Benjamin Sachs, who is able to "read the world as though it were a work of the imagination"; by strange coincidence, that seems to be just Paul Auster's gift.

But it is a gift less apparent in this memoir than in his novels. Not least because most of the book is taken up by "three of the longest footnotes in literary history", according to his publisher. Length alone is not usually claimed as a literary virtue... and indeed, trawling through Auster's sub-Beckett plays, his reason-



Auster: long footnotes — or is just padding?

able pastiche of a hard-boiled detective novel and — well, I gave up trying to play "Action Baseball", the card game he invented in a bid for fortune. I rather found myself wishing for confusion. There is a reason that this stuff didn't make him famous. Faber, I thought, would know better.

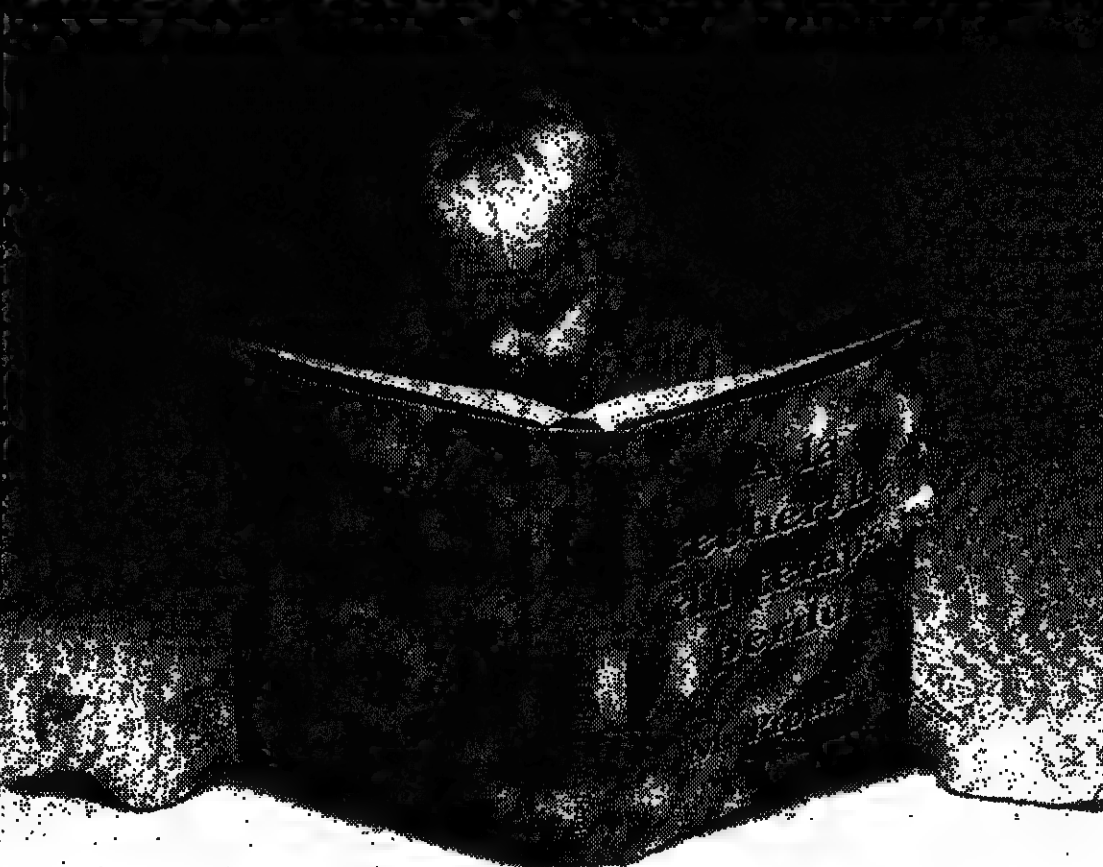
The memoir itself is entertaining enough. It breezes along, and provides enough Auster cameo characters to keep the reader amused. There is Elmer, who takes over the janitor's job on the *Eso Florence*, and eats with fundamentalist abandon; Casey and Teddy, the Laurel and Hardy pair he encounters in the Catskills; even the reporter for *The New York Times* whom Auster — holding the fort one

night at the Paris bureau of the paper — instructs to "stick with the story, come hell or high water". But the book is distanced, flippant: Elmer and his like don't draw us closer to the writer, they keep us separate, an audience to the end. What really formed Auster seems entirely absent. Perhaps that's what he wants; given the kind of writer he is it would not be surprising. So do not be deceived by the gold-bound heft of the book itself: it's much lighter than it seems. And I dare you to figure out Action Baseball.

Erica Wagner's collection of short stories, *Gravity*, is published this month by Granta, priced £9.99.

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IF CHRISTMAS shopping in a fashionable city other than London appeals, Surviv UK is offering two-night breaks with full breakfast at the four-star Channings hotel, in a cobbled street near the centre of Edinburgh, for £109pp. Details: 0181-232 9788.

GETTING guests into shape before Christmas is the

aim of David Lloyd Leisure, with weekend breaks in Eastbourne featuring eight hours of tennis tuition and unlimited use of the pool, gym and squash courts. The price of £119 also includes accommodation, breakfast and lunch. Details: 01323 520091.

SINGLES over 30 can get in the festive spirit early by joining a three-night break in Inverness from December 5 with Solo Holidays. Costing £359, it includes Christmas dinner, rambles to walk to off, and visits to Loch Ness and Cawdor Castle. Details: 0181-951 2800.

RIVERDANCE is returning to London and Superbreak is offering a £95 package to see the show and stay at the five-star Radisson Edwardian hotel. Available until February. Details: 0161-238 5257.

ACTIVE families can tackle quad bikes, Honda Pilots and archery on a Christmas break at the four-star Corbie Grove Manor hotel, Bath. The three-night package, including all meals and a Boxing Day dinner-dance, costs £430. Children under 14 sharing their parents' room pay £90. Details: 01225 834644.

EUROPE

PARIS for four nights for £149 including B&B and a flight from Manchester next Monday on an Airtours package is among late offers available from Co-op Travelcare. Details: 0541 500388.

DUBLIN is one of the most popular destinations for short breaks and Aer Lingus has announced its best rates yet with two nights B&B and return flights from London costing £95 a person. Details: 0181-899 4747.

THE ALGARVE is still warm enough for a pleasant holiday and comes cheaper than in high season, with a fortnight's self-catering at the Club Praia da Rocha costing £220 a person (based on four sharing) with Lunn Poly. Fly from Gatwick to Faro on November 15. Details from the company's Holiday Shops.

BIRDWATCHING from a floating hotel in the Danube delta is the intriguing prospect on offer from Naturtrek as part of a seven-day trip starting on November 22. It also takes in Romania's Black Sea coast. Price: £895 with flights,

accommodation, all meals and an expert guide. Details: 01962 733051.

THE AMALFI coast's newest hotel, the five-star Palazzo Sasso, in a restored 12th-century villa at Ravello, is included in a luxury break available from Virgin Hotels for £499. Fly from Gatwick to Naples for three nights dinner, bed and breakfast. A week's stay costs £799. Details: 0800 716919.

THE CHANCE to visit one of Europe's oldest pharmacies is being highlighted by Slovenia Pursuits as part of a week's package to Jelenov Greben. The trip costs £470, including return flights from Heathrow and half-board. Details: 01763 852646.

TEENAGERS can enjoy skiing without their parents in a unique programme with the Ski Club of Great Britain, which includes competitions, trials and entertainment. Places are available for 13 to 19-year-olds in Tignes for a week from December 13 for £395, including return flights from Gatwick and full-board chalet accommodation. Details: 0181-410 2000.



The Beaujolais Nouveau festival, marking the release of the new wine with a gala dinner, fireworks and dancing until dawn, is featured in a three-day break available from VFB Holidays from November 18. Price: £324 with rail travel. Details: 01242 240338.

BALI remains one of the romantic destinations and is available at a £319 saving from Premier Holidays if you travel before December 9. For £685, you can fly BA from Heathrow and stay for a week in a five-star beach hotel. Details: 01223 516677.

THE GAMBIA Experience is offering river and sea fishing holidays. A week's B&B, with return flights from Gatwick or Manchester, costs from £288, and three days river fishing costs an extra £75. Details: 01703 730888.

SINGAPORE for five nights is available this month at a £100 saving from Qantas Holidays. The new price of £529 includes non-stop flights from Heathrow and hotel. Details: 0990 673464.

THE CRUISE LINE is marking the refurbishment of the *Flamenco* with a 12-night transatlantic and Caribbean package from £999, including all meals. Fly to Italy on December 3 and sail to the West Indies via Malaga and Madeira. Details: 01273 835252.

WILDLIFE and a bird sanctuary, as well as the more traditional tourist venues of the Taj Mahal and Jaipur, are included in an 11-day tour of India, leaving Heathrow on December 4, with Travelbag Adventures. Priced from £795, the package includes B&B and a tour leader. Details: 01420 541007.

FLYING to the States in the New Year? If you book by next Wednesday, half-price deals on Continental Airlines are available from Globesavers for return flights between January 5 and March 31. New York costs from £153 and San Francisco from £215 with tax extra. Details: 0990 556556.

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CRICKET

Wasim's election helps Lancashire back on even keel

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

ONE might expect Jack Simmons, the new chairman of Lancashire, to be an agitated man. The club has lost, in quick succession and for different reasons, a chief executive, a treasurer and a captain, as well as Bob Bennett, the outgoing chairman. Yesterday, however, Simmons was in spring-like mood as he surveyed the path ahead.

He was speaking after the club had decided on Tuesday night that Wasim Akram, the Pakistan all-rounder, should succeed Mike Watkinson as captain. Wasim, 31, missed the whole of last summer with a shoulder injury that required surgery, and has only recently returned to cricket, regaining the captaincy of his country before the three-Test home series against West Indies that begins in Peshawar on November 17.

Wasim has a lot on his plate next year, when he takes a benefit at Old Trafford, where he first appeared as a Lancashire player in 1988. But Simmons is not worried by Wasim's fitness record. "He reckons he has had no problems bowling at full pace, and has had no reaction to his shoulder injury at all," Simmons said.

"According to Waz, he's three or four weeks ahead of

the specialist's schedule. Captaining Pakistan may help to reduce his burden because he's not going to hammer himself. With the bowlers they've got, he doesn't have to do it all by himself anyway."

Wasim, Simmons said, was the obvious choice as Lancashire captain. "When he led the team two years ago, we won all five games under him. When I spoke to him before the committee meeting on Tuesday, and asked him if he would be prepared to do the job, he said it would be a great honour. You expect somebody to say that, I know, but he sounded sincere."

With John Crawley acting



Wasim: honoured

Record stand ends Pakistan's hopes

SANATH JAYASURIYA and Aravinda de Silva scored centuries as Sri Lanka beat Pakistan by eight wickets in the quadrangular one-day tournament in Lahore yesterday.

Jayasuriya hit a belligerent 134 not out and de Silva a masterly undefeated 102 as Sri Lanka passed Pakistan's 280 with ten overs to spare. The two put on a Sri Lankan record stand of 213 runs for any wicket.

They dashed Pakistan's hopes of reaching the final of the event, hosted to celebrate the golden jubilee of Pakistan's founding.

Sri Lanka qualified for the final, where they meet South Africa on November 8. Before that the teams meet in the last league match today. Pakistan's total had contributions of 94 from Ejaz Ahmed and 70 from Amir Sohail.

The 28-year-old Jayasuriya hit 13 fours and three sixes in his 114-ball innings.

The Australian cricket authorities are facing heavy losses because of low ticket sales for the first Test against New Zealand, which starts in Brisbane tomorrow.

Fewer than 2,500 tickets have been pre-sold for the opening three days.

as vice-captain, and the vacant honorary and administrative posts all filled. Old Trafford is a happier place these days. Mind you, as the less charitable might observe, that is because there is no cricket being played.

Simmons, clearly, is determined that there will be no slacking when the game is resumed, and stated that Lancashire intended to rely on their own young players to put things right.

Speaking warmly of Andrew Flintoff, who tours this winter with the England A team, Nathan Wood, Richard Green and Mark Chilton, he said that Lancashire would not be importing talent from other counties, which has become an ever more popular winter pastime. "We want to leave the avenue open to our own youngsters," he said.

There was also good news this week of Glen Chapple, the promising pace bowler who rose to prominence when he took six for 18 against Essex in the NatWest Trophy final last year.

Chapple's career has not advanced since then, disturbed by an injury that was initially thought to be of the groin and was finally diagnosed as a double hernia, for which he had an operation earlier this week.

"We wondered what was going on," Simmons said. "Here he was, a talented young lad, and he couldn't put the ball in the right place, and people thought he didn't care about what he was doing."

"All along he had been told it was a groin strain, and that's what Laurie Brown, our physiotherapist, was led to believe."

As Lancashire prepare to welcome back a fully-fit Chapple, not to mention a rejuvenated Wasim, they acknowledge that Jason Gallian will leave, probably to join Nottinghamshire, where the captaincy may become available within a year or two. Lancashire will contest his registration, as they have offered him a new contract, but Gallian is adamant that he wants away.

Lord's in debt to lady's expertise

A new column on the impact women administrators and players are making in sport

Medha Laud is not officially allowed to walk through the willow and walnut of the Long Room at Lord's, but from the glass and concrete of her office, discreetly tucked away at the Nursery End of the ground, she makes sure that the England men's cricket team is in the right place at the right time.

Employed by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) as international teams administrator, Laud, 37, plans the winter moves of players with an attention to detail of which any sporting tactician would be proud. Imminent tours to Sharjah, Kenya, Sri Lanka and the West Indies would extend any administrator, even without the political unrest causing concern in Colombo. What makes Laud so pivotal to the set-up is that England's finest, this week touring for fitness in the Lanzarote sunshine, rely just as much on her troubleshooting and "people skills".

"I have moulded the job to the extent that it now reflects my personality," Laud said. "I like being heavily involved, working with people and following things through. Trust and respect are very important to me." She admits to feeling protective of the players and the enthusiasm that she radiates makes her popularity easy to understand.

"Medha is everybody's favourite," Michael Atherton, the captain, said. "All the organisational stuff that surrounds the England team, the travel and hotels, the equipment and sponsored kit we get, is dealt with by Medha. She's not just an administrator, more a personal assistant to all the players. You ring her up and she gets it sorted. We'd be totally lost without her."

Hardly surprising, then, that many eyebrows were

raised when the ECB appointed Simon Pack, 53, to the new post of international teams director last month. "Initially it wasn't explained properly so I'd be lying if I said I wasn't concerned," Laud said, "but the board were looking for a non-cricketing person with skills in management and development. He will have overall responsibility for the department and will ensure an even tighter structure."

Pack's military background will not necessarily mean more blindfold drives in Land Rovers for the players, but it should enable Laud to see a clearer path through her paperwork. Atherton may have hastened the change.

"I spoke to Ian MacLaurin [the chairman of the ECB] in the summer to say that Medha is an integral part of our team and that she seemed to have a very heavy workload," he said. "I wanted her to have some help without diminishing her role."

Such loyalty has earned through a disciplined and determined work ethic. Born in India, Laud came to England as a young child. After graduating from Cambridge College of Arts with a degree in history, she wanted to be a sports journalist, but a job at the Oval during the summer of 1983 revealed not just her administrative talents but her passion for the game.

She was Micki Stewart's personal assistant before he became the first England manager and has been based at Lord's for three years. Laud was the first to be employed in this job and modestly claims that much of the planning necessary for an England tour is now "routine".

Nonetheless, things can go wrong. A tour to the West Indies in 1990 began badly when Rob Bailey's baggage went missing. Peter Lush, then the manager, phoned



Laud's role as troubleshooter has earned her widespread praise and admiration

Laud in a panic. "He said they needed replacement kit within 48 hours," she said. "Instantly I was phoning all the suppliers. I got a duplicate set and British Airways got them on the next flight." Players forgetting to have inoculations or, worse, to bring their passports, are potential calamities that she now takes in her stride.

Only recently has the ECB introduced an element of travel into Laud's job. She checked the facilities in Lanzarote and flew to Barba-

dos earlier in the summer in preparation for the players' arrival with their families in March. "We know what our requirements are," she said. "This is our team and we know how we want them to be looked after."

She believes that English cricket is in the process of rejuvenation and her brown-eyed sparkle is persuasive. "There's something in the air, a will to get things exactly how they should be," she said. "Ian MacLaurin has been great. He's taken the time and

effort to get to know the players and listen to what they have to say. He appreciates different personalities and the players respect him. I hope he stays."

"In all the talk of 'Team England', it really begins and ends with Medha," David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said. "The whole thing would fall apart without her. It's probably only now that people have begun to realise how much she does." Laud is the England team's best-kept secret.

SQUASH: QUALIFIER BOUNCES BACK WITH VICTORY OVER EIGHTH SEED

Marshall revives England's hopes

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN KUALA LUMPUR

THE British contingent in the last 16 of the world championship rose to eighth here in Malaysia yesterday when Peter Marshall, who had to qualify for this event during his painstaking comeback from chronic fatigue syndrome, removed the No 8 seed, Brett Martin, of Australia, 15-10, 11-15, 15-13, 11-15, 15-12 in 90 minutes.

It was a result of some significance to the 26-year-old from Nottingham. Marshall endured embarrassing defeats in his two previous meetings this year with the stylish 33-year-old from Brisbane, but here showed a calmer resolve and a commendable endurance to seize his opportunity from 12-12 in the fifth game.

Martin, usually the most relaxed of competitors, betrayed his tension in an event laid open by the absence of the Pakistani, Jansher Khan, eight times a winner of the title. The Australian contributed 38 unforced errors to Marshall's cause, nearly one third of all the points scored by both players in the exhausting hour and a half they were on court.

The subsequent failure of Del Harris to justify his seeding at No 7 by losing 15-13,

17-14, 9-15, 15-12 to the mobile Canadian, Graham Ryding, improved Marshall's prospects here. He has risen from 42 to 26 in the new PSA world ranking list, and is likely to be upgraded to second string when the England squad begins its defence of the world team title here next week.

If Marshall can succeed again today against Dan Jensen, of Australia, the No 10 seed, he could advance a claim to be listed ahead of Harris and perhaps even the England captain, Chris Walker, whose recent history has been chequered, to take on the chore of facing Martin, the Australian second string, in the team event.

Jensen, who himself has just returned from three months out of the game with a stress fracture of the foot, eliminated one of the England qualifiers, Tim Garner, in a hard-fought match lasting 68 minutes. The tall 22-year-old regarded that as his comeback breakthrough, but it may have



Marshall: enduring



Harris: overcome

left him more tired than Marshall.

Simon Parke, the England No 1, and Walker were among the other seven Britons who advanced from the first-round session on Tuesday. Another English qualifier, Nick Taylor, went out to Anthony Hill, of Australia, in straight games.

Graham Ryding today, while the top seed, Rodney Eyles, and the No 3, Jonathan Power, play two more qualifiers in Craig Wapnick and Anjan Khan, a nephew of Jansher. Eyles needed just 26 minutes to overcome Amir Wagh, of Egypt, 15-10, 15-11, 15-5 in the first round yesterday, despite being put under pressure in the first two games.

In the bottom half of the draw, Simon Parke plays the British champion, Mark Cairns, today, and Walker meets the Welshman, Alex Gough. Mark Chaloner plays the fifth seed, Ahmed Barada, and Peter Nicol, the Scot seeded No 2, takes on the young Welsh champion, David Evans, the fourth qualifier to have reached the last 16.

BOWLS

Canada give England run for their money

UNSUNG Canada went marching on in the Manulife Hong Kong International Classic pairs tournament here in Kowloon yesterday, winning both their games, and finishing the day level with England on points at the top of the section B league table, but in second place on shots countback (David Rhys Jones writes).

Jim Aitken and Lyall Adams scored narrow wins over strong local teams representing the Hong Kong Lawn Bowling Association and the Hong Kong Correctional Services Department, 16-15 and 23-16 respectively.

Andy Wills and Stuart Airey, of England, however, maintained their advantage with wins of 29-10 and 24-20 over Hong Kong Electric and Zimbabwe, and are on course to bring the classic title to England for the first time since the competition was first held in 1981.

Sadly, the world outdoor pairs champions, Jeremy Henry and Sammy Allen, from Ireland, lost against Zimbabwe and Hong Kong Cricket Club, and appear almost certain to fail in their bid to reach the quarter-finals. However, Scotland and Wales are still in the frame.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

The Broadcasting Standards Commission

On 3 October 1996, ITV broadcast a programme in

Carlton's current affairs series The Big Story which

looked at whether there was a link between measles

vaccinations and Crohn's disease, as had been suggested

by Dr Andrew Wakefield. Dr Wakefield and Professor

Anders Ekblom, a Swedish medical researcher who had

been interviewed for the programme, complained to the

Broadcasting Complaints Commission (now the

Broadcasting Standards Commission) that the

programme had been unjust and unfair to them.

Dr Wakefield complained that the programme unfairly

implied that he was alone in his views. Professor Ekblom

complained that an important part of one of his answers

had been unfairly edited, giving the misleading impression

that, unlike Dr Wakefield, he thought there was unlikely

to be any connection between measles and Crohn's

disease.

The Commission considered the programme as a whole a

responsible investigation into a matter of public interest.

However, while the Commission recognised that the

programme-makers found difficulties in editing an

interview with a Swedish expert for whom English was

not his first language, it considered that by editing out

Professor Ekblom's opinion that measles was a "suspect

agent" in the development of Crohn's, the programme

gave a misleading impression of his views. In this one

respect the Commission found unfairness.

The complaint was therefore upheld in part.

You can get a copy of the full adjudication by sending a

stamped addressed envelope to Broadcasting Standards

Commission, 7 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JS.

Blackburn Philanthropic

Mutual Assurance Society

49-51 Preston New Road, Blackburn,

Lancashire BB2 6AE

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

A special General Meeting of all members of the Society

will be held at the Registered Office, 49-51 Preston

Road, Blackburn, on Thursday 20th November 1997 at

7pm.

Business

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following

resolution:

1. That, to confirm to the Friendly Societies Act 1974

and the Friendly Societies Act 1992, the Society adopt

the completely revised Rule Book, a copy of which is

on display at the registered office of the Society.

A copy of the revised Rule Book will be sent to any

member on written request.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting

may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his or her

place and may direct a proxy how to vote at the

meeting. Proxy forms are available from the Chief

Executive/Secretary of the Society on request and any

appointment of proxy must be received at the

Registered Office at least 48 hours before the time of

the Special General Meeting.

By order of the Committee

J.H. Geddes

Chief Executive/Secretary

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If it's what you want to know

RUGBY LEAGUE

Goodway is counting on do-or-die attitude

By Christopher Irvine

GREAT BRITAIN have refused to be panicked into drastic surgery for the second British Gas international at Old Trafford on Saturday, with four changes, two positional, from the starting line-up beaten 38-14 by Australia at Wembley.

Jason Robinson has been moved to a free role on the right wing, with Paul Atcheson, a specialist full back, brought in for his full debut. Alan Hume has switched wings to the left, which was formerly occupied by Anthony Sullivan, his St Helens colleague, one of two players dropped.

Andy Goodway, the Britain coach, has omitted Mick Cassidy from the pack, where the overall lack of raw aggression was one of the disappointments of the first match, and introduced Adrian Morley, who made an impact when he

manager. "I'm very disappointed with Martin's attitude. If he doesn't want to make himself available for his country, maybe he's better off where he is," he said.

Goodway, who had already persuaded Crompton to rejoin the squad once, said: "There were one or two options he didn't agree with and I can understand players being disappointed when they're not chosen. However, this is a three-match series and the idea if not selected is to work twice as hard to get that spot for the next match."

There was little Goodway could do than continue with Farrell out of position at stand-off. Farrell put his indifferent performance at Wembley down to "dumb play" and not unfamiliarity with the No 6 role. He, too, is confident of a better performance.

After training at Wigan yesterday, Goodway dead-batted a question about criticism of the team after the Wembley match by Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League (RFL) chief executive. "No players have mentioned it," he said.

Meanwhile, the club, having risen from the ashes of Oldham Bears, which went into liquidation last month, outlined its plans to enter a team in the second division next season. They will play at Boundary Park, where the Bears spent last season, or Spodden, the home of Rochdale Hornets, until a new dual-purpose stadium is built in Oldham.

As associate members of the RFL, the new club will receive no money from the £57 million Super League pool. Chris Hamilton, the four-man consortium spokesman, said: "We are starting from the bottom with nothing. We are fortunate to start off with a debt-free situation."

Seven Bears players have joined other clubs as free agents after the former club collapsed with debts of more than £1 million. "One of the first priorities is to name a coach and then look at players," Hamilton said. "We've a lot to learn from what happened to the old club. What happens off the field is of particular importance."

came on towards the end of the first half.

With Simon Haughton and Mike Forshaw, both powerful second-row forwards, brought in on the bench, Goodway is seeking aggression. "Do-or-die, call it what you will, it is a case of us having to take the game to them," Goodway said.

Sean Long is the third new face on the bench, as cover for hooker and for both half-back positions, which are again occupied by Andy Murray, the captain, and Bobbie Goulding, who might have come under pressure for the scrum-half berth. If Martin Crompton had attended training this week.

Crompton, on holiday since his omission from the first match, was yesterday dropped from the squad. Goodway has heard nothing from him and his action was bitterly criticised by Phil Lowe, the team

TEAM

GREAT BRITAIN: P Atcheson (St Helens); J Robinson (Wigan); K Radcliffe (Wigan); N Newlove (St Helens); A Hume (St Helens); A Farrell (Wigan); P Broadbent (St Helens); J Lowe (Bradford); S McDermott (Bradford); C Jarry (St Helens); A Morley (Leeds); P Scullion (Warrington); Substitutes: S Long (St Helens); M Forshaw (Bradford); S Hogg (Wigan); S McNamee (Bradford).

Daley stands out as a rare vintage



Daley's quick thinking and hat-trick of tries proved the inspiration for the Australia team that outclassed Great Britain at Wembley

Christopher Irvine on the half back whose enjoyment fuels a rugby league superpower

In and around the country towns of Juncie and Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, they make cricketers, such as Mark Taylor and Michael Slater, and rugby league players, such as Peter Sterling and Greg Brentnall, to last. Laurie Daley excelled at both sports and might have ended up playing Australian Rules for the Sydney Swans, were it not for Canberra Raiders and the 13-man game, his first love.

A decade later, Daley and Allan Langer can justifiably claim to be the greatest players of their generation. Now 28 and on his third tour to this country, this time as captain, Daley is in his vintage. Injury has broken up the half-back partnership with Langer for the British Gas international series, but at Wembley last Saturday, Daley was a sublime, one-man show, teasing, tormenting and finally killing off poor Great Britain.

The abiding impression left by Daley's three-try display was that Britain, too, once produced half backs of similar calibre — Alex Murphy, Roger Millward, Andy Gregory, Garry Schofield — but that in the mad rush for brown above brain, players of Daley's subtle qualities have been lost. Is it any wonder that Britain have not unearthed a genuinely creative

stand-off since Schofield's withdrawal from the international scene in 1994? When injury forced Wally Lewis from the Australia side in 1990, no one could have imagined that the young Daley would supplant "King Wally". At Wembley on Saturday, there were echoes of Lewis's genius, the nonchalant prising open of gaps, the ability to compress time and create space for his trickery and the inch-perfect tactical kicks, short, long or into the outstretched arms of his wing.

Daley's mastery springs from enjoyment, pure and simple. "I don't see myself as another Wally Lewis, just a guy who loves his footy, who likes a beer after the game, training and, above all, playing. I take a lot of pride in my performance, but when you put pressures and expectations on yourself, that's when it's all too much to live up to," he said. "When you're confident, you're enjoying it that much more. All the time I'm mixing my game, so that the opposition can't work me out." Lewis had a brief, celebrated spell in 1983 at Wakefield

Trinity, where Daley was heading at one stage until injury, a common curse of his younger years, intervened. He would have made more than 22 international appearances but for serious problems with his legs and the exclusion of Super League players, of whom Daley was the most notable, from the victorious Australian Rugby League World Cup team of 1995.

Despite the bitterness of the two-year dispute in Australia, the portrayal of the rebel Super League players as dollar-grabbing mercenaries and the personal abuse he took, Daley is a prime advocate of the Super League and its global vision.

Not surprising, as the money has set him up for life, yet like most players on both sides, he earnestly hopes that there will be a unified Australian competition next year. Daley would be one of the few players assured of his place in a united Australia team. "I'd hate to pick the side. There are such depths of talents

in both camps. Maybe one of two of the young guys wouldn't have got to tour this time, but the experience can only enhance them and, in Craig Gower and Darren Lockyer, you've got potential greats."

Appearances can be deceptive, and although this Australia team might go down as one of the quietest off the field, the noise that they are capable of on it excites Daley. "Some sides might have three or four key players. Close them down and a side doesn't function. With Australia, maybe you've got eight or nine blokes who can control the game," he said.

That is why Britain could clamp down on Daley at Old Trafford in the second match on Saturday and still find themselves overrun. Whatever, Daley does not subscribe to the theory that Britain will implode, although he was surprised in the world club championship how poorly English club sides performed and that Britain effectively gave up the chase in the last 15 minutes at Wembley.

Would Australia, 12 points behind, have thrown in the towel? "No," Daley said. "We'd have probably been more adventurous, cranked things up. Maybe it's our attitude... maybe they were tired." Tired of chasing Daley, perhaps.

ICE HOCKEY

Brebant is awaiting bite from Cobras

By Our Sports Staff

RICK BREBANT, the coach of struggling Newcastle Cobras, yesterday announced that he may not be in charge for the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final at home to Cardiff Devils today.

Brebant is feeling the pressure after a dismal run that has seen the club from the North East lose eight of their past ten games, including all of their opening seven matches in the Superleague. Newcastle have a mountain to climb in the Newcastle Arena against Cardiff, after losing the first leg 6-2 in the Icehouse last Saturday.

Brebant indicated that he may be about to lose his job, when questioned yesterday afternoon, after he had already said that he would never walk out.

Asked whether he would take to the ice to help Newcastle out of the doldrums, he said: "I don't know what I'm going to be doing any more."

When questioned further about whether he would be in charge today, he replied: "I don't know. I don't want to say anything else. I'm fed up, very fed up."

Newcastle's season has fallen apart after a successful start to their Benson and Hedges campaign, when they won six and drew two of their ten group matches to reach the quarter-finals.

Only a 5-1 victory at Basingstoke Bison — after a 1-1 home draw in the first leg of the tie — temporarily lifted the gloom over Newcastle. But Brebant, who earlier this season gave up the playing side of the sport to concentrate on coaching, still tried to remain optimistic in the face of an enormous hurdle.

"If we get a couple of early goals and the crowd lift us, then who knows," he added. "We are due for some lucky breaks."

"Whatever has happened in the past, we've got to forget about. We've got to believe we are going to win and win big. It's like that saying about an animal being backed in a corner — that's us, we are that animal. There's a lot of frustration and the boys are down, but everybody knows what they've got to do."

"The key is just to win and get some confidence going. But Cardiff play smart, counter-attacking hockey. If we're caught trying to press, then they could get a few easy goals and put the game out of reach."

BOXING: TYSON'S CONQUEROR COMMITTED TO BRINGING AN END TO TITLE CONFUSION

Unification tops Holyfield's agenda

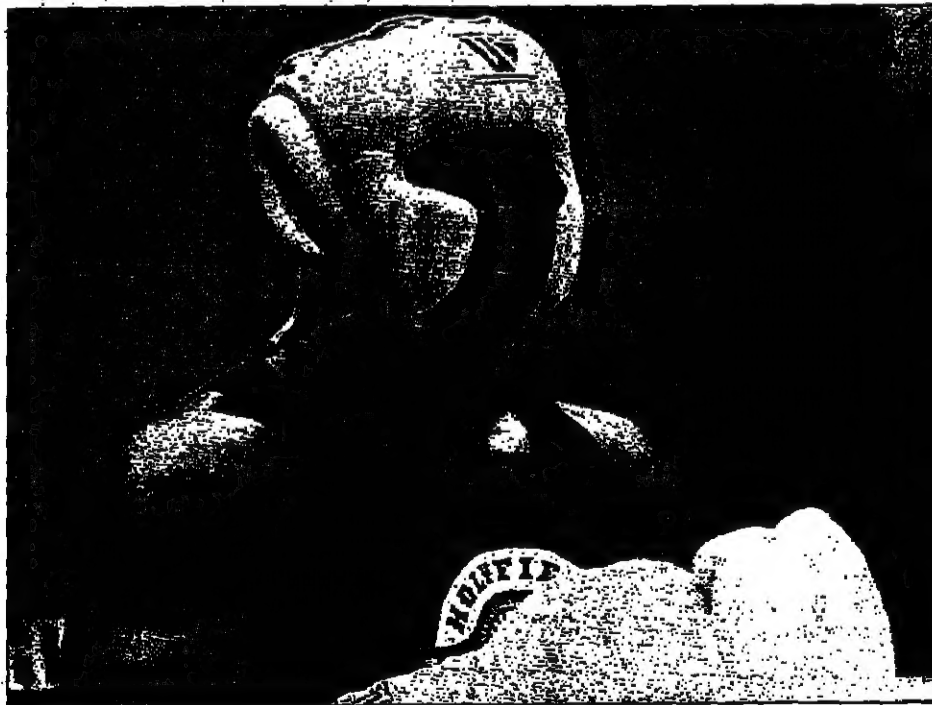
FROM SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN LAS VEGAS

WHETHER or not Evander Holyfield is acclaimed as one of the great heavyweights of all time at the end of his career, no one will be able to deny that the three-time world champion brought dignity back to the division which had reached its lowest point after the return of Mike Tyson from prison.

Tyson's decision to take the easy way back to the top by picking opponents he could beat and demanding vast fortunes to fight men like Peter McNeeley, Buster Mathis, Bruce Seldon, Frank Bruno and even Holyfield, who was thought to be a sick man and well past his best, had cost the division its credibility. Tyson had not followed in the footsteps of the great. When Muhammad Ali returned after a similarly long absence, he signed to meet Joe Frazier.

After his feat of twice humiliating Tyson, Holyfield is setting about making heavy-weight boxing a sport again. He wants the division to have one champion and if he is successful here on Saturday in adding Michael Moorer's International Boxing Federation title to the World Boxing Association crown he already has, he is expected to insist that he fights Lennox Lewis, the World Boxing Council champion, to decide who is the best in the world.

"Hopefully, I will get a fight with Lennox. That would pretty much close out my career," he said yesterday. "I have not committed myself to anyone to a point where a fight cannot be made. We want to see the best against the best, and not tie a fighter to a [television] network that he cannot be the best that he can be. The game of boxing is all about coming to an agreement



Holyfield, in sparring mode in Las Vegas, is looking beyond the Moorer bout

so that things can work for everybody. Sitting at a table with people who understand what my goal is, I'm sure a fight like this can be made."

Holyfield is the first champion to speak out against the world bodies that put their interests before those of boxing. He said: "We do not need to have all these different titles out there... We need to form a new organisation that doesn't just work for itself, but for boxing as well. We need to come together and have one champion in each weight division. We need the best to fight the best."

"I know my years are limited. This fight [against Moorer] and maybe another fight. After I beat Lennox Lewis, I'm going to sit with you guys in a press conference and tell you what I'm going to do."

It is not difficult to under-

stand Holyfield's desire to end the confusion caused by the various world bodies for, if a bout with Lewis is delayed, he has the prospect of meeting the winner of an eliminator between Henry Akwande and Orlin Norris. The latter was a failure as a cruiserweight and Akwande did not even have the nerve to put up a fight against Lewis.

Those who believe in Holyfield's ideals and that boxing should be a sport once again and not just the preserve of promoters, must hope that he can avenge his defeat by Moorer 3½ years ago. Moorer's management has already said that they do not intend meeting Lewis, no doubt realising what the outcome would be. They would clearly rather wait for Tyson to get his licence back.

Even though Moorer would

present few problems for Lewis, he could prove an awkward obstacle for Holyfield, who has difficulty dealing with southpaws. Holyfield looked in magnificent shape

on Tuesday, when he did a light workout, but in the two rounds he sparred against a southpaw, he did not impress. It was not surprising to hear Holyfield say: "I realised that Tyson's style was made for me. I knew I could beat him all the time. If I had to pick someone to fight I would pick him, even as tough as he is. He would be a lot easier for me than other people that don't hit as hard and have a more awkward style."

Holyfield maintained that it was Moorer's negative attitude in their previous contest that cost him the bout. "I look at the last fight and I think I beat myself. If he wasn't doing anything, I wasn't doing anything. I get frustrated with guys who don't come to win."

Don Turner, Holyfield's trainer, said he did not believe that Moorer was a true southpaw but rather a boxer who had been "turned round" to compensate for a weak left hand. He believed that Holyfield would have little difficulty dealing with him.

Turner said: "You're talking 3½ years ago. Michael Moorer was at his best. Evander at his worst. Now you will see the best of Holyfield."

Nevada commission offers Tyson glimmer of hope

By Our Sports Staff

BOXING officials yesterday told Mike Tyson he must prove to the world that he has truly repented of the ear-biting fiasco, which ended his second bout with Evander Holyfield, before he can be allowed back into the ring.

Tyson, who was suspended after being disqualified by the referee, Mills Lane, has said that he doubts that the Nevada State Athletic Commission will ever let him fight again.

Elias Ghanem, chairman of the commission, and Marc Ratner, its executive director, both said yesterday that Tyson had no grounds for feeling that way.

"The commission has not talked about him or his suspension and we don't know what we're going to do," Ghanem said. "A lot depends on his behaviour the rest of the way."

"Mike Tyson has to prove to the commission, and the rest of the world, that he has rehabilitated himself. He has to admit to the terrible thing he did that night. He has to make a 180-degree turn," Tyson, who has apologised to Holyfield, is recovering from a broken rib and punctured lung, injuries he received last week as a result of a motorcy-

cle accident in Connecticut. He can appeal against his suspension next July.

Holyfield has said that he has forgiven Tyson. "He did it out of anger," Holyfield said. "Pressure makes people react like that when they're not accustomed to pressure. I love him. I forgive him."

Oliver McCall, the former World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, made a triumphant return in Nashville late on Tuesday by beating Bryan Taylor on a technical knockout in the eighth round.

The bout was stopped when Yates went down after a series of jabs. Earlier in the round he had lost his gunshield after being hit by a barrage of uppercuts and hooks. He had been knocked down twice in the fifth round.

McCall was suspended and fined \$250,000 (about £150,000) after refusing to put up a fight against Lennox Lewis in Las Vegas last February but Nevada officials voted last month to end his suspension, making him eligible to fight in any state that approved his comeback.

His \$3 million purse for the Lewis fight is still tied up in

legal proceedings. The promoters, Main Events Incorporated, are claiming part of it, saying that McCall breached his obligation to "give an honest exhibition of his skills".

HBO, the cable television network which screened the fight, also seeks the return of the \$3 million it paid for the rights, claiming it did not get what it paid for.

McCall has appealed to the Third US Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia but a ruling is not expected until next year.

McCall said yesterday that he wanted a chance to redeem himself against Lewis. "I want him again, I don't care how long it takes. I know I should be heavyweight champion of the world."

McCall was arrested twice in 1996 for drug possession and has been in and out of drug rehabilitation. He was arrested in Nashville for vandalism, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest after he threw a glass and a Christmas tree in a hotel lobby and spat on a police car.

He was ordered to a Virginia mental hospital in March this year after his wife took out an emergency custody order against him.

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Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane

For Bath butlers, a stitch in time saves 15

What luck for the All Blacks that they arrived in Britain in the nick of time to catch last night's final episode of *The Rugby Club* (BBC2), which means they stole a valuable glimpse of the hitherto secret tactic that makes British rugby so feared and admired the world over: complimentary sewing kits (including spare buttons and a little thread). Yes, yes, I know it sounds obvious, but the obvious things are the ones we simplest always fail to notice.

Why else would the topic of complimentary sewing kits have featured so large in the management-pow-wow that Bath's new bosses held last spring to try to work out why Bath — once the kings of amateur rugby — were ending their first professional season in 1996 as court jesters?

At the pow-wow, Stephen Hands, Bath's new director of marketing, unveiled something that

will restore the team's fortunes. What? What? Better players? A new grandstand? No, a "premium-quality shirt" with a "classic Bath rugby feel". He doesn't say what a "classic Bath rugby feel" is, although it sounds painful. The shirt will come in a fancy box, banded with Bath's club logo. Inside the box will be — yamamah — the complimentary sewing kit, because this is the sort of shirt, said Hands, that you give to "your butler" to sew back any loose buttons. If I were a butler, I think I'd advise Mr Hands to buy the sort of "premium-quality shirt" from which the buttons don't fall off in the first place.

Still, it is endearing to see a marketing director who has not yet turned into one of those jaded, world-weary travellers who have collected enough hotel sewing kits to re-embroider the Bayeux tapestry from beginning to end if someone asked them politely.

As he unveils his brainwave, Hands is fiddling like a boy opening presents on Christmas morning. His fellow directors look like parents trying to feign enough surprise to suggest that they, too, are seeing that new Lego set for the first time. "It's a totally premium product," Hands is gushing, "but bought by somebody who isn't necessarily a rugby fan. This is really a completely incremental income channel."

Not being a professional rugby player, I am not exactly sure what a "completely incremental income channel" is. But I have a nagging feeling that it may well have been the search for a "completely incremental income channel" that did for many of the people we saw in Prison Weekly (BBC2), the first of a six-part magazine programme about what goes on behind bars. If the producers' thinking behind

REVIEW

Joe Joseph

this series was that *Porridge* and *Prisoner* Cell Block H still left gaps in most people's knowledge of real prison life, they were right. For example, explaining why it was such good value to spend £11 million on refitting HMP Weare, a prison ship on which the inmates tucker about who gets the sea view, Colette Kershaw, the governor of Cookham Wood prison, said that it worked out much cheaper than

spending £1,000 per prisoner per night in police cells. £1,000? You could pay these lads £300,000 a year not to reoffend and the State would still be in pocket.

At Doncaster prison, they have instituted a novel anti-bullying scheme. "You will wear a green T-shirt," the latest culprit was told by John O'Brien, the prisons operations manager, "to denote the fact that you are a bully."

What a brilliant idea. But why stop at prisons? Why not expand this programme beyond prison walls, assigning specific colours to specific characters? Brown for boric; blue for snails; green for gossip; blue for backstabbers; grey for grumpy. Think how much time we would all save.

But for the most improbable insight into prison life, we had to wait for the poet Benjamin Zephaniah's appearance in the programme's "famous ex-cons" slot. Men, understandably, miss le-

male company when doing time. Many reach a point where the slightest trigger can send them wild with erotic desire. Zephaniah's trick was to stroke his girlfriend's neck, when she visited him, so that his hand carried the scent of her perfume. He would later seal a snuff of his hand for 10p, or for a cigarette. Lord knows how excited Stephen Hands at Bath is going to get when he hears about this wheeze. Which would fetch the higher price: a snuff of Jeremy Goscut, or of Phil de Glanville?

A different enlightenment came in *Bystanders*, Nicholas O'Dwyer's haunting film for Modern Times (BBC2), which shone its light on the many ways in which an attacker's punch leaves scars on people who were never his victims.

"I'd like to ask her forgiveness for walking away," said Barney Seiler, a broken man who is still


tormented by the memory of how he saw a woman being violently assaulted 17 years ago, and did nothing. He has lost his self-respect. How badly was she beaten? Was she killed? Seiler doesn't know. The incident has blotted his long life like an ink stain. "The only thing I have is that I don't have many years left, and that will be the end of it... rather a sad way of ending one's life, isn't it?"


Victims, too, carry invisible scars. When Phyllis Collins, a retired civil servant, was torn apart with lit cigarettes on a train to Preston, what jolted her was that none of the 60 other passengers in the carriage lifted a finger. Why not? "If you're looking for help," one of her attackers hissed as she tried to summon support with her eyes, "don't bother. They won't come and help you. Nobody does these days."

Not even if you entice them with a complimentary sewing kit.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (56273)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (1) (56157)
9.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (5675322)
9.25am Style Challenge (5694457)
9.50am Joke (1) (5620226)
10.30am Change That (2633231)
10.55am The Really Useful Show with Tony Morris and Ruth Langford (1) (7272761)
11.25am Real Rooms (5625102)
11.55am News (1) regional news and weather (5625993)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (7216251)
12.35pm Going for a Song (2661490)
1.00pm One O'Clock News (1) and Weather (56254)
1.30pm Regional News (1) and weather (5625993)
1.40pm The Weather Show (5625167)
1.45pm Neighbours Flits fly between Billy and Lance (1) (56715032)
2.10pm Quinny (1) (2667761)
3.00pm World on a Plate (1) (7261)
3.30pm Funnies (1) (5643964) 3.35pm Play (1) (565998) 3.55pm The Silver Brumby (5636612) 4.30pm Mr Wym (1) (5632186) 4.35pm Smart (1) (155925) 5.00pm Newsround (1) (5680148) 5.10pm Byker Grove (1) (5671148)
5.35pm Neighbours (264457)
6.00pm One O'Clock News and weather (563)
6.30pm Regional News (1) (235)
7.00pm Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer magazine with Alice Bear, Liz Kershaw, Jonathan Maltland, John Nicolson and Andy Webb (1) (7070)
7.30pm EastEnders Joe puts out his troubles to Grant, who offers him the benefit of his experience with women (1) (419)
8.00pm Animal Hospital A tawny owl is rushed to Harrogate after being hit by a car. Travelling at high speed (1) (5640)
8.30pm Blade of the Feather First-ever episode of the comedy with Pauline Gurnea, Linda Robson and Lesley Joseph (1) (1) (2525)
9.00pm One O'Clock News (1) regional news and weather (1577)
9.30pm Men Behaving Badly New series. Gary decides to make an honest woman of Dorothy (1) (40051)
10.00pm They Think It's All Over New series. Snooker star Steve Davis and chef Alan Hurrell join the regular team players David Gower, Gary Lineker, Lee Hunt and Rory McLeod for the return of the light-hearted sports quiz (5602)
10.30pm Cilla Anderson All Talk with Robbie Coltrane and Hollywood's highest-paid actress, Demi Moore, new promoting G1 Jane (10322)
11.00pm Question Time Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, Cheryl Gillan, the Conservative Trade and Industry spokeswoman, the journalist Paul Foot and the historian David Starkey join David Dimbleby for political discussion from London (1) (562438)
12.05am By-Election Special: Result and analysis from the Paisley South-by-election, until approximately 3.00am Weather (12649251)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode
The numbers listed in the Video PlusCode are the numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ card. The Video PlusCode is the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (V), PlusCode (P) and Video PlusCode are trademarks of Camstar Development Ltd.

- BBC2**
- 6.00am The Chemistry of Power (10254)
6.30pm Easing the Pain (56252) 7.00pm Sea Hear News (1) (563102)
7.15pm Telethon (1) (564032) 7.40pm Smurfs Adventures (1) (2620273) 8.05pm Blue Peter (1) (1) (2200070) 8.30pm Mouse and Mole (1) (5604322) 8.35pm Johnson and Friends (1) (5608896) 8.45pm The Record (5696051) 9.10pm Numbertime (563026) 9.25pm Megamaths (1) (250000) 9.45pm Come Outside (56780) 10.00pm Telethon (47277) 10.30pm Storytime (267439) 10.45pm The Experimenter (2702148) 11.05pm Space Ark (562070) 11.15pm Zig Zag (1917983) 11.35pm English File (5643932) 11.55pm Liffeschool (565898) 12.20pm Showcase (569009) 12.25pm Firework Safety (5672070)
12.30pm Working Lunch (56457)
1.00pm Barney (1) (56481362) 1.05pm Monty (1) (56481362) 1.10pm The Art and Antiques Hour (56733964) 2.10pm Going, Going, Gone (56479831) 2.35pm Really Useful Show (5648051) 2.40pm News (5645964) 2.45pm Westminster (7402993) 3.25pm News (5640070) 3.30pm The Village (5672959) 3.55pm Really Useful Show (569009) 4.00pm Ready, Steady, Cook (148) 4.30pm Through the Keyhole (1) (155896) 4.55pm Esther (5680051) 5.30pm Today's Day (812)
6.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1) (179344)
6.45pm HK Miss or Maybe (567809)
7.00pm The Whitecliffs: The World's Greatest Ocean Race Preview of the dangers facing crews on the Southern Ocean leg (5612)
7.30pm First Sight: Autism (761) (London only)
8.00pm Just One Chance The consumer's guide to education this week explores the work of "playground guru" Jenny Mosley (1032) WALESS: Franco and Friends
8.30pm Top Gear BMW's new R1200C cruiser and Citroën's hatchback, the Xsara (1) (5647)
9.00pm Third Rock from the Sun Sally leaps at the chance to marry a hunky Franciscan (40840)

Geologist Bryn Storey (9.25pm)
9.25pm Horizon: Antarctica The mystery of how the ice-covered continent was formed (219) (1) (421273)
10.15pm 10x10 Kathleen Byron on her performance as Sister Ruth in Black Narcissus, Last in Series (803341)
10.25pm Shark Bites (562815)
10.30pm Newsnight (1) (540099) 11.15pm Late Review (564457) 11.55pm Weather (726254) 12.00pm Phil Silvers (5640)
12.30am Learning Zone: Sally Gurnea (567185) 12.35pm Architecture (561893) 1.00pm LA: City of the Future (3055) 2.00pm Who's the Boss? (73552) 4.30pm Film Education (77842) 5.00pm Teacher Training (22804) 5.30pm Teaching and Learning with IT (43620)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (4447612)
12.54pm Air Watch (1) (5670877)
9.55pm Regional News and weather (567505)
10.00pm The Time, the Place (567831)
10.30pm This Morning (1) (4676051)
12.20pm Regional News (5668577)
12.30pm News (1) and weather (2617815)
12.55pm Shortland Street (2625050)
1.25pm Home and Away Rebecca gets her hearing back (1) (5644379)
1.50pm Outlaw (1) (5671263)
2.20pm Vanessa (1) (5645383)
2.50pm The Fashion Police (1) (5633167)
3.20pm News (1) (5645525)
3.25pm Regional News (1) (5644896)
3.30pm Poshmark (569564) 3.40pm Wizardia (155896) 3.50pm Kipper (1547750) 4.00pm The Adventures of Dowdle (907480) 4.15pm Jumanji (1) (7014382) 4.40pm Out of Sight (1) (5625525)
5.10pm A Country Practice (1) (5620399) Followed by CrimeStoppers
5.40pm News (1) and weather (567235)
6.00pm Home and Away (1) (271032)
6.25pm Regional News (1) (56341)
6.30pm Regional News (1) (56341)
7.00pm Emeraldale The Woolpackers go on a surprise trip (1) (5638)
7.30pm WALESS: Wales This Week (615)
7.30pm The Big Story (615)

Butler and Chairlift (8.00pm)
8.00pm The Bill: Accomplish A serial killer's past helps Carver find a missing woman. Gill With Linda
9.00pm Third Take: One Last Harsh The wedding goes undercover at a society wedding where gangs are missing for a shoot-out (1) (5615)
10.00pm News (1) and weather (26070)
10.30pm Regional News and weather (702877)
10.40pm WALESS: The Farrel (568032)
10.40pm CrimeStoppers Special (568032)
11.15pm WALESS: The Big Story (564032)
11.15pm Charlie Grace: The Kid (567341)
11.45pm WALESS: Tropical Heat Nick saves a woman's life, only to become the object of her deadly obsession (1) (472148)
12.10pm Short Story Cinema (5640804)
12.35pm The LADS (1) (562571)
1.10pm Punny Business (5676113)
1.40pm The Loop (1) (5676303)
2.05pm Planet Rock Profiles (3489574)
2.35pm Late and Loud (1) (2575216)
3.30pm The Good Sex Guide... Late (1) (569194)
4.25pm Cilla Calls (4058303)
4.35pm The Time, the Place (1) (5690562)
5.00pm Garden Calendar (1) (22858)
5.30pm News (43674)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
12.54pm Air Watch (1) (5670877)
12.55-1.25pm A Country Practice (2625050)
1.10-1.40pm Shortland Street (2625050)
1.50-2.00pm Air Watch (567528)
6.25pm Central News (569051)
6.55-7.00pm Lifetime (135051)
10.40pm CrimeStoppers (261585)
11.40pm The Young Jazz Musician of the Year (46050)
12.45pm Funnies Business (42533)
1.15pm Planet Mirth (5696668)
1.40pm Rockman (5621113)
2.40pm God's Gift (5615113)
3.30pm Late and Loud (15804)
4.30pm Central Jokester '97 (2216891)
5.20pm Asian Eye (5656620)
As HTV West except:
12.55pm Home and Away (5668167)
1.20-1.50pm Emeraldale (79796167)
1.50-2.00pm Home and Away (5620399)
6.00-7.00pm Westcountry Live (56902)
10.30pm Westcountry News (716457)
10.45pm On the Edge (444419)
11.15pm Power Games (564032)
11.45pm Movie Magic (472148)
4.30pm The Time, the Place (71688)
As HTV West except:
5.10pm-5.40pm Home and Away (5620399)
6.00pm Meridian Tonight (821)
6.30-7.00pm Rural Rides (5631)
10.30pm Meridian News and Weather (716457)
10.45pm Unleashed (444419)
11.15pm A406 (564032)
11.45pm Highlander (472148)
4.35pm Beyond Reason (5690552)
5.00pm Freezone (22858)
As HTV West except:
12.15pm Air Watch (5670877)
12.55-1.25pm The Making of a Game Show (2625050)
5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (5620399)
6.25pm Anglia Weather (181070)
6.25pm Anglia News (269051)
6.55-7.00pm What's On (135051)
10.25pm Anglia Air Watch (563941)
10.30pm Anglia News and Weather (716457)
10.45pm Film: Falling from Grace (1991). A drama starring John Maltcamp and Mariel Hemingway (3625815)
Starts: 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (76877)
9.00pm Yagalon (56490) 11.30pm Powerhouse (56780) 12.00pm Sesame Street (26933) 12.30pm Ricki Lake (56322) 1.00pm Slot Machine (5620399) 1.15pm Will Come (5620713) 1.30pm Blind Man's Bluff (5678964) 1.45pm Film: Crooks in Cloisters (7412996) 3.30pm Collector's Lot (709) 4.00pm Fifteen-to-One (544) 4.30pm The Lone Ranger (728) 5.00pm Pump (3524) 5.30pm Countdown (780) 5.00pm Newsworld (44964) 5.30pm News (716457) 7.00pm The 100th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings (716457) 7.25pm Penelope (716457) 8.00pm On the Edge (5628)
8.30pm Newsworld (5628) 9.00pm Newsworld (5628) 9.30pm Newsworld (5628) 10.00pm Newsworld (5628) 10.30pm Newsworld (5628) 11.00pm Newsworld (5628) 11.30pm Newsworld (5628) 12.00pm Newsworld (5628) 12.30pm Newsworld (5628) 1.00pm Newsworld (5628) 1.30pm Newsworld (5628) 2.00pm Newsworld (5628) 2.30pm Newsworld (5628) 3.00pm Newsworld (5628) 3.30pm Newsworld (5628) 4.00pm Newsworld (5628) 4.30pm Newsworld (5628) 5.00pm Newsworld (5628) 5.30pm Newsworld (5628) 6.00pm Newsworld (5628) 6.30pm Newsworld (5628) 7.00pm Newsworld (5628) 7.30pm Newsworld (5628) 8.00pm Newsworld (5628) 8.30pm Newsworld (5628) 9.00pm Newsworld (5628) 9.30pm Newsworld (5628) 10.00pm Newsworld (5628) 10.30pm Newsworld (5628) 11.00pm Newsworld (5628) 11.30pm Newsworld (5628) 12.00pm Newsworld (5628) 12.30pm Newsworld (5628) 1.00pm Newsworld (5628) 1.30pm Newsworld (5628) 2.00pm Newsworld (5628) 2.30pm Newsworld (5628) 3.00pm Newsworld (5628) 3.30pm Newsworld (5628) 4.00pm Newsworld (5628) 4.30pm Newsworld (5628) 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CRICKET 42

The woman on whom Lord's has come to rely

SPORT

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 6 1997

ATHLETICS 46

The man who can never stop running



Liverpool implore key players to stay

European exit sees Evans at the crossroads

BY MATT DICKINSON

THERE are plenty who will sit in judgment of Liverpool in the coming weeks and months, fascinated, after their early Uefa Cup exit, to see whether a mighty club is doomed to spend yet another season falling short of expectations and silverware. Prominent among a jury of thousands will be some of the Anfield players.

While it is Roy Evans's career that has arrived at a critical juncture, from which he will either lead a resurgent club back up the FA Carling Premiership table or take the path less travelled by Liverpool managers and face an ignominious end to his reign in the summer, it is the long-term future of several of the key players that provides a revealing insight into a team at the crossroads.

Anfield officials have approached Robbie Fowler, Steve McManaman and Jamie Redknapp, the latter while he was in hospital with a broken ankle during the summer, and implored them to sign long and lucrative, extensions to their contracts. So far, they have declined.

With 18 months left on McManaman's present deal and more than two years to serve for the other pair, the situation is some way short of a looming crisis. Nor should anyone doubt that those players, two of them committed Scousers, would love anything better than to help Liverpool to catch the runaway juggernaut of the Premiership leaders down the M62 at Old Trafford.

In this age of Bosman, Liverpool's haste is understandable. If the talented young trio enter the last year of their contracts, the Anfield club faces the prospect of losing gifted players as well as millions of pounds in transfer

fees. But the players' reluctance is equally reasonable and if scepticism about Liverpool's long-term prospects plays a part, who can blame them on recent evidence?

The thrilling 2-0 victory against Strasbourg in the second-round, second-leg match on Tuesday night only emphasised how woeful Liverpool had been in the first leg and, in a season of disappointment so far, it has not been their only aberration.

Evans, understandably, tried to see matters differently. "It could be the turning point, when the lads decided to change things," he said, but it must surely have been uttered more in hope than expectation because he has a team that, at present, cannot be trusted from one week to the next. He has also made mistakes, picking the wrong team and formation in France and failing to start with Riedle's experience on Tuesday.

That the talent is in his squad is beyond doubt. In attack, Fowler, Riedle and Owen would be the envy even of Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager. In midfield, the return from injury of Redknapp looks to have convinced Paul Ince that

he does not need to try to win games single-handedly and he is much the better for it, showing signs that his high-class international performances will soon be adapted onto the club stage.

The defence, though, remains an Achilles' heel that the possible arrival of a new goalkeeper, Brad Friedel, from the United States, will only partly solve, and Evans must step up his search for a dominating centre half on the lines of Colin Hendry or Steve Bruce, who will not stir.

If, during Evans's reign, there has been one damning weakness in this Liverpool team, it has been a brittleness of temperament that has been exposed on too many decisive occasions. Manchester United were not a better team over the campaign last year. But they were a stronger one and Ince, a man tutored in the hard school at Old Trafford, appreciates the difference.

"We have the talent, we have shown that," he said. "But we have to show the passion and commitment to go with it, week in and week out. It was a great effort on Tuesday by all the lads, every-one giving that extra bit. But it is no good just performing like that in a one-off situation."

"We believe in our ability. Not many teams could match us on that sort of form. We had nine good chances but we just have to be a bit more ruthless. It is a different mentality. It is harder maybe to lift yourself for the domestic games every week than a one-off game in Europe like that, but we have got to do it."

With Tottenham Hotspur and Barnsley to come in the Premiership before momentous duels against Arsenal and Manchester United, Liverpool have the chance to climb from mid-table. Two wins and they will be back up among the championship contenders. With Europe gone, the alternatives are critical.

Positive Vialli, page 44
Delighted Adams, page 44



Fowler: approach



Laurie Daley, Australia's captain, the scourge of Great Britain at Wembley, in training yesterday for the second international. Report, page 45

New Wigan board bring back Monie

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

JOHN MONIE, whose Midas touch as coach brought Wigan rugby league club 14 trophies in four seasons, is to return to Central Park after 4½ years, at the expense of Eric Hughes, who is no stranger to being bundled out of jobs to make way for Australians.

The same thing happened to him at St Helens, where he was unceremoniously dismissed after two years and replaced by Shaun McKee, in January 1996.

His nine months at Wigan were not without success in what was a difficult season of transition. But Hughes, who is holidaying in Barbados, was contacted last night and told that when he returns it will be to collect his P45.

Wigan have called a press conference today to announce Monie's appointment, the first by the club's new owners since their takeover a week ago. Monie recently turned down an offer to coach a possible

new franchise club in Scotland and had made it known, following his dismissal by Auckland Warriors earlier this year, that he would relish another stint at Wigan.

The new board members, Mike Nolan, the chairman, and John Martin, a director who is a close associate of David Whelan, the former Wigan president and chairman of Wigan Athletic Football Club, are believed to have taken Whelan's advice in appointing Monie, who said: "I had a great time here first time round and always held out hopes of having another go one day. I still have a lot of friends in the area."

Any doubts Monie might have had about putting his name to a two-year contract were removed by the financial stability brought to the club by Nolan and Martin, whose £1 million rescue package saved

Wigan from possible collapse. Moreover, the Wigan local authority this week approved Whelan's plans for a new 25,000-seat joint-use stadium at Robin Park, which Wigan hope to move to when they leave Central Park in 1999.

When the new regime re-

portedly vetoed his attempt to sign Paul Rowley, the Halifax hooker, Hughes, who led the team's successful defence of the Premiership title in September, must have known his days were numbered, although even he could not have foreseen the swiftness with which Monie has been ushered in.

Monie, who is in this country to watch the international series against Australia, first met officials at Wigan on Monday.

There was also interest in him from Leeds, whose first choice to fill the vacancy there is Andy Goodway, the Great Britain coach, which would rule him out for the job of assistant at Wigan.

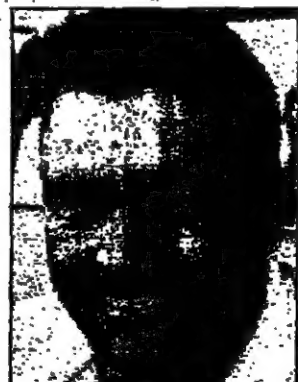
Since his departure in May 1993, Wigan have failed, despite the best attempts of John Doherty, Graeme West and Hughes, to recapture the dom-

inance of the domestic game that the club enjoyed under Monie, whose record at the club is unrivalled. But it would be wrong to see him as some sort of talisman.

Players in his great Wigan side have grown old or moved on, although with Monie's return and that of Denis Betts, from Auckland, the club has embarked on a policy of back to the future.

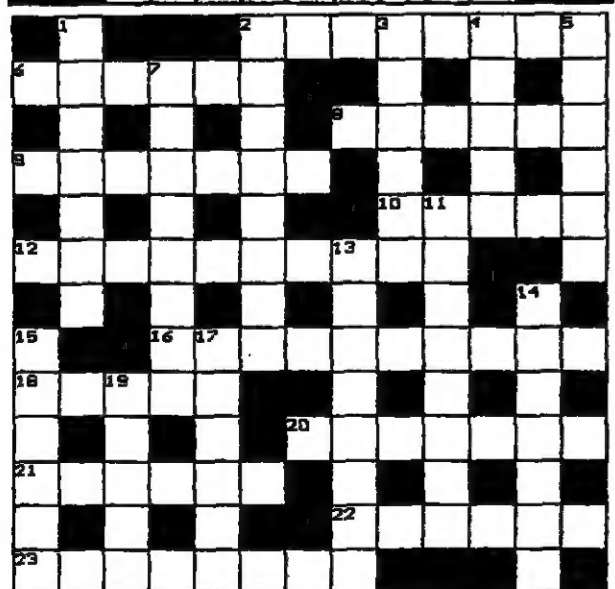
Monie brings a cerebral, rational and calculating approach to his coaching, although none of those attributes were enough to save him after three years helping to set up Auckland, where he created one of the best junior programmes in the Australasian Super League.

Nolan said: "John's return proves we're not afraid to spend when necessary or take tough decisions to lead the club to success. His appointment is the first move in taking Wigan forward."



Monie: wonderful record

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1244

ACROSS

- 2 Treasured (8)
- 6 Paris museum (6)
- 8 Amuse; send off course (6)
- 9 Supply (7)
- 10 Angry (5)
- 12 Rest and recuperate (10)
- 16 Guide me... Great Redeemer tune (3,7)
- 18 Light beer (5)
- 20 Indirect; angled (7)
- 21 Spanish instrument (6)
- 22 Revolve (6)
- 23 Trunked pachyderm (8)

DOWN

- 1 A whiskey; hirsute royal line (7)
- 2 Swinging bob on line (8)
- 3 Reviewer (6)
- 4 Last Greek letter (5)
- 5 One posing; Willem de... astronomer (6)
- 7 Oral exam (4,4)
- 11 Again join, stay in, army (2,6)
- 13 Franz..., composer b. 1797 (8)
- 14 Fine-tunes (7)
- 15 Pestilence (6)
- 17 Ring of flowers (6)
- 19 Encrusted dirt (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1243

- ACROSS: 4 Forts 7 Airborne 8 Eton 9 Delicate
10 Eraser 13 Kidney 14 Forage 15 Sturdy 18 Absinthe
19 Cone 20 Contrite 21 Kings
DOWN: 1 Gaoler 2 Uranus 3 Yonder 4 Feminist
5 Retainer 6 Surety 11 Abrasion 12 Eugenics 14 Frank
15 Siesta 16 Urchin 17 Dinner

Holders safely through

SCHALKE 04, the holders, came back with two second-half goals to beat Anderlecht 2-1 in Brussels yesterday and reach the third round of the Uefa Cup. The German side had won the first leg 1-0 two weeks earlier.

Anderlecht levelled the aggregate score as early as the sixteenth minute, when Enzo Scifo, the veteran Belgium playmaker, found Glen de Boeck with a defence-splitting pass. The central defender had no trouble converting the pass.

Anderlecht's hopes of causing an upset lasted until the 58th minute, when Schalke scored two goals in quick succession, both times capitalising on defensive mistakes. First, Spirtu Gragic failed to mark Marco van Hoogdalen and the Dutch midfielder scored his first goal for the club.

A few minutes later, Marc Wilmots, the Schalke striker, who had also been left unmarked, met a cross from Andreas Müller and headed home the winner. "In the second half we started out more aggressively and it paid off," Rene Eijkelkamp, the Schalke forward, said.

Henman through to meet Rafter

BY OUR SPORT STAFF

TIM HENMAN will meet Patrick Rafter, the US Open champion, for the first time, in the quarter-finals of the Stockholm Open. Henman, the British No 2, beat Magnus Gustafsson, of Sweden, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 yesterday, while Rafter, the world No 3, knocked out Johan Van Herck, of Belgium, 6-3, 6-4.

Henman, who beat Gustafsson at Wimbledon last year and at Doha in January, got off to a flying start with an early break. He then held his service for a 5-2 lead, saving a break point with an ace, sending down another ace and finally clinching the game when Gustafsson sent a forehand over the baseline.

He had three set points in the ninth game, and the 30-year-old Swede saved the first two, as Henman double-faulted and was outmanoeuvred by a lob. But, at the third time of asking, the No 8 seed won the set with an ace.

respect for Tim's game. I'd say it's a 50-50 match, straight down the middle.

"I'm more motivated now than at any other time during the indoor season. I've struggled on the surface the past three or four weeks. It's good to feel like this. I'm concentrating on winning here, not on [the ATP world championship in] Hanover."

Rusedski, who has been troubled by a virus this week, is scheduled to play Lionel Roux, of France, in a second-round match today.



Henman: into last eight

Meanwhile, Karol Kucera beat Thomas Muster, the fifth seed, 4-6, 6-3 - a defeat that may have ruined the Austrian's chances of reaching the world championship in Germany - while Cedric Pioline, of France, defeated

Hope for French grand prix

THE French Grand Prix, which was in serious doubt for next season because of a problem over television rights, now looks to have a good chance of getting back on to the Formula One calendar for 1998.

The French government and the FIA, the sport's governing body, are optimistic that they have clarified a national law over access of television cameras which clashes with Formula One championship rights.

A meeting between Max Mosley, the FIA president, and Marie-George Buffet, the French Sports Minister, on Tuesday was due to be followed yesterday by cabinet examination of the clarifying decree.

"We have the impression that we are on the right track to resolving the problem," Mosley said.

The difficulty consists in resolving, on the one hand, the demands of a great world championship and, on the other, the rights, recognised by all, to information," he said.

The problem arose after a French court ruled this year that all national television channels are entitled to broadcast a race on their soil. This went against the FIA's exclusive rights deal that was arranged with individual broadcasters.

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